

THE NEW YORK TIMES
FOR WORLDWIDE
RESERVATIONS
RING 01-5673444

Daily Telegraph

No. 40,259. LONDON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1984

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HOWE SETS UP UNESCO PULL-OUT

Tory MPs upset by FO economies

By NICHOLAS COMFORT Political Staff

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, Foreign Secretary, provoked a barrage of protest from Conservative and other MPs when he announced yesterday that Britain was giving notice of withdrawal from Unesco, and that he was making economies across the board in the Foreign Office.

He told MPs that the Government would withdraw from Unesco—the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation—in 1986 unless progress were made in reforming the agency's much-criticised spending programme.

The Foreign Secretary was cheered by some Government supporters when he announced his decision on Unesco—which has been accused of anti-Western bias—but ran into immediate criticism from Mr Heath and the opposition.

More ominously, a series of senior Tories, including Mr Heath, Mr Pym and Mr Edward du Cann, attacked his economy package, which has been put together in an attempt to defuse a backbench campaign against originally planned cuts in foreign aid.

Sir Geoffrey told MPs that the package would comprise the closure of ten small diplomatic missions, increased entry clearance fees for foreigners, and cuts for both the British Council and the External Services of the BBC.

And while he argued that his revised proposals on overseas aid would not involve cuts, his critics did not take that view. Some claimed privately that they had been misled the night before into thinking the economies would be more nearly restored.

As a sizeable Tory rebellion loomed on a Liberal motion condemning the economies, the officers of the Conservative backbench foreign affairs committee took the apparently unprecedented decision to abstain from last night's vote en bloc in protest.

Culmination of

Tory row

While they made it clear that they were offering a lead both to wavering Tory loyalists and to those who had intended to rebel, Sir Geoffrey had more to offer on overseas aid, they expected a number of Conservative MPs to vote for the Liberal motion.

Sir Geoffrey's announcement of the economy package, more than any other international broadcaster—said last night that some damage to the service was inevitable following the £1 million cut announced by Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Plans to restart the Caribbean service and the Asian service to Sri Lanka in Sinhala would be immediate casualties. But further detailed examination would be necessary before more decisions were taken. The cut is of roughly one per cent, which could be as much as £1,300,000 on the estimated £86 million budget for 1985-86.

Mrs Thatcher baffled at Fitzgerald claims

By NICHOLAS COMFORT Political Staff

THE Prime Minister voiced "total disagreement" yesterday with claims by Dr Garret Fitzgerald, her Irish counterpart, that she had been "gratuitously offensive" to the Republic in comments she made after their Chequers summit.

"I do not understand his comment in any way," Mrs Thatcher told MPs when pressed on the issue in the Commons during question time. Whitehall was trying yesterday to depict the argument as one which need have no lasting effect on Anglo-Irish relations. It was recognised that Mrs Thatcher's dismissal of the proposals made last spring by Dr Fitzgerald's "New Ireland Forum" was inevitable.



THATCHER CONDEMNS UPROAR

By JAMES WIGHTMAN Political Correspondent

THE Prime Minister and the Speaker yesterday condemned Labour MPs who caused the suspension of the Commons sitting on Wednesday night with a demonstration against a Government change in social security benefits.

Mrs Thatcher said that the protest was "very ugly incident" and the Speaker, Mr Weatherill, warned MPs that such conduct undermined the authority of Parliament.

The row, over the effect of the benefit change on the families of striking miners, raged in the chamber yesterday but without any of the disruption of the night before.

The Government had announced that the £15-a-week deduction from supplementary benefits for strikers' families is to be increased to £16 because unions are deemed to give strike pay during disputes.

Emergency debate Amid uproar, some 30 Labour MPs, mainly left-wingers from mining constituencies, had occupied the centre of the chamber in front of the mace and refused to return to their seats.

Mr David Nall, MP for Coventry South-East, grabbed the text of Mr Fowler's statement and read it out.

Mr Malcolm Hughes, marketing manager of the Nationwide Building Society, said: "We're losing up to £5 million a day. Some societies are understood to have lost more than £10 million in one day this week."

Mr Rowland, chief executive of Lloyds, yesterday agreed to resign from the board of the House of Fraser group, along with Lloyds chairman Lord Duncan-Sandys.

They would otherwise have faced an extraordinary general meeting to sack them. The former Lloyds stake of 29.9 per cent of Fraser is now held by the Egyptian Al-Fayed family.

But the City is not treating the move as any indication that Lloyds will abandon its fight for control of Harrods, the principal asset of Fraser.

Details—P25

INDEX TO OTHER PAGES

MR PATRICK JENKIN, expected to be discharged today.

His chauffeur suffered only minor injuries but Mr James Wignall, driver of the other car, was detained with a broken leg and head and chest injuries.

Mr Jenkin's Cabinet colleague, Industry Secretary Mr Norman Tebbit, and Mr John Wakeham, Government Chief Whip, are still recovering from injuries received in the Brighton hotel bombing. Mr Wakeham, whose legs were badly hurt, has started to walk with the aid of a frame.

1.4m pensioners face benefit cut

By DAVID FLETCHER Health Services Correspondent

MORE than one million pensioners face a cut of up to £1 a week in supplementary benefit payments for heating their homes under new benefit regulations coming into force next week.

But heating payments of a basic £2-10 a week will be given to 170,000 more pensioners.

The change in the regulations is being introduced at the same time that all benefits are increased by an average of 5.1 per cent.

Heating payments are at present paid automatically to pensioners over 70 who qualify for supplementary benefit. From next week these will be paid automatically to pensioners over the age of 65 provided they are on supplementary benefit.

A higher rate of heating addition, £5-20 a week, will also be paid automatically, for the first time, to supplementary benefit claimants over the age of 65.

To offset the cost of these extra payments, the Department of Health and Social Security is deducting £1 from the heating addition paid to those who receive the long-term rate of supplementary benefit. This is estimated to affect 1,245,000 pensioners. The £1 cut will also hit some single persons.

A spokesman for the Department explained that the cut was part of a long-term strategy of supplementary benefit, £35-70 from next week, was higher than the ordinary rate, (£28-05) to cover extra costs such as heating.

Details—P15

ROWLAND TO RESIGN AT FRASER

MINERS HIT NEEDY

CHEAPER BANK LOANS

By CLIFFORD GERMAN Financial Correspondent

NATIONAL Westminster Bank led the way for Lloyds and the Midland in cutting base lending rates by 1/2 per cent, to 9 1/2 per cent, yesterday, taking advantage of the overnight cut in the American discount rate, and leapfrogging the 1/4 per cent cut announced by Barclays Bank last Monday.

Interest rates paid on seven-day deposit accounts are also reduced by 1/2 per cent, and Lloyds is cutting its mortgage rate by 1/2 per cent, to 11 1/2 per cent.

The Bank of England gave its approval of the reductions by cutting its dealing rates in the London money market into line with the lower levels.

The American decision to reduce its discount rate reopened the way for cheaper money in Britain.

Record deficit The October trade figures revealing a record current account deficit of £851 million last month compared with £828 million in September caused nervousness and by the close of business the pound had fallen back to close only 10 points higher against the dollar at \$1.23.

Britain's rebate of £528 million from the Common Market was credited to the accounts for invisible trade last month. Together with the estimated monthly surplus of £250 million on services and dividends, it helped reduce the account deficit to £75 million against a revised figure of £576 million in September.

City Report—P25

OIL PRICES SLIDE TO CRISIS LEVEL

Oil prices weakened again on the Rotterdam "spot" market yesterday, falling close to the crisis levels, which hit sterling in July.

Prices of both North Sea and Saudi crude are down by 40 and 50 cents a barrel compared with a week ago.

Job cuts anxiety A demand by Mr DON DIXON (Lab., Jarrow) for an emergency debate on British Shipbuilders' plans for 5,000 redundancies, was rejected by the Speaker.

Today's Weather

7,000 JOBS AT COUNCILS WILL GO

By JOHN GRIGSBY Local Government Correspondent

MORE than 7,000 jobs will go and £100 million will be saved by the "rationalisation" involved in the abolition of the Greater London Council and the six metropolitan county councils, Mr Baker, Local Government Minister, said yesterday.

The Government was determined that the G.L.C. and the county councils, all Labour-controlled, would be abolished on March 31, 1986, he said at a Press conference.

The Government intends that councils' roles will be taken over by the London boroughs and the metropolitan district councils.

Details—P14

ISRAELI TROOPS SHOOT STUDENT

By Our Jerusalem Correspondent Serious riots and tension on the West Bank of the Jordan, which yesterday coincided with the opening in Amman of the meeting of the Palestine National Council, continued yesterday.

A young Palestinian student was shot and killed by Israeli troops and another was wounded.

Details—P5

LATE NEWS

Gromyko and Shultz fix date for arms talks

By DAVID SHEARS in Washington

AMERICA and Russia have agreed to meet at Foreign Minister level in Geneva on Jan. 7-8 to revive their long-dormant dialogue on curbing the nuclear arms race.

Washington and Moscow announced in a joint statement yesterday that Mr Shultz, Secretary of State, and Mr Gromyko, his Soviet counterpart, would discuss at their Geneva encounter the agenda for reviving arms control talks.

Both governments have agreed "to enter new negotiations with the objective of reaching mutually acceptable agreements on the whole range of nuclear and outer space arms."

Mr Robert McFarlane, the White House national security adviser, said the purpose of the Shultz-Gromyko meeting would be to "reach a common understanding as to the subject and objective of such negotiations."

He quoted President Reagan as saying this would be "the first step on what will be a long and difficult road, but the world is depending on us."

Meanwhile American and Russian officials have just finished two days of talks in Washington on continuing America's massive grain exports to the Soviet Union.

After six successive poor harvests, Russia is expected this year to import a record 50 million tonnes of grain, and America hopes to provide at least one-third of this amount.

President Reagan has long since lifted the embargo imposed on American grain exports to Russia in response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

And he promised American farmers troubled by sagging markets for their bumper crop that Russia could buy up to 22 million tonnes of United States grain this year, 10 million tonnes more than originally envisaged.

As around the time Mr Shultz will be meeting Mr Gromyko, a leading United States Commerce Department official will be in Moscow heading a delegation to discuss United States-Soviet trade.

Details—P4

WIVES IN PRISON BREAK INQUIRY

Mrs Lorraine Keodati, wife of one of the prisoners freed from a prison van, was freed by a gang at Reigate on Tuesday, was interviewed yesterday at Reigate police station.

Mrs Tracy Smith, wife of the other prisoner, was still there yesterday after being held overnight helping police inquiries.

LAW LORDS UPHOLD GCHQ BAN

By MAURICE WEAVER Industrial Staff

TBIDE union hopes of re-establishing themselves at the Government's Communications Headquarters in Cheltenham received a major setback at the hands of the House of Lords in an appeal ruling yesterday.

Five Law Lords unanimously dismissed the union's case for the lifting of the ban on their operating at GCHQ imposed by the Prime Minister last January.

But Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, said afterwards that the movement would continue its fight and take the case to the European Commission of Human Rights.

Moves by the Government to dismiss any of the estimated 400 workers who are still union members would lead to a TUC call for a national Day of Action, he added.

Leaders of the six Civil Service unions which were ousted from the "spy centre" are Continued on Back P. Col 5

MINISTERS 'SAVE' £60m A YEAR

By Our Political Staff The cost of running Government departments has risen more than the rate of inflation every year since 1979-80, Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said in a Commons written reply yesterday.

He said Ministers were making savings of £60 million a year, including up to £22 million a year from a review of staff allowances to the unemployment benefit service; £12 million from contracting out cleaning and catering at the Ministry of Defence; and £4 million a year from a new mail system in the D.H.S.S.

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200 MINERS' FAMILIES HIT BY £1 CUT

By DAVID FLETCHER Health Services Correspondent

FEWER than 200 miners' families would lose cash as a result of the extra £1 a week to be deducted from strikers' social security payments, the Department of Health and Social Security stated yesterday.

The vast majority of the 47,000 miners' wives claiming supplementary benefit will receive exactly the same amount when the changes are introduced next week. Those who do lose money will only lose a few pence each week.

Many wives, mostly those with children of school age, will be slightly better off.

Since the miners' strike started a total of £24,100,000 has been paid out in welfare benefits to their families. The numbers claiming last week totalled 47,115.

Under existing regulations strikers' families have £15 a week deducted from any supplementary benefit they receive to compensate for strike pay which their union is assumed to be paying.

The money is deducted irrespective of whether strike pay is actually being made—the N.U.M. does not pay strike pay—and will rise to £16 next week.

The increase coincides with the annual rise in all welfare benefit payments. Supplementary benefit for an adult dependent—such as a striker's wife—will rise from £21.45 to £22.45.

The increase exactly cancels out the extra £1 deduction

A wife with no dependents would therefore continue to receive the same amount of welfare cash and a mother with two children under 11 would get an extra 90p a week.

The Health Department explained that the 200 or so people they expect to be worse off are widowed or divorced miners who qualify for State help because they are bringing up children on their own.

For example, a miner with two young children paying rent of £25 a week and rates of £5.77 would have these payments met plus £15 in child benefit, £4.05 single parent benefit and £1.25 supplementary benefit, making a total of £45.07. Because he is on strike £15 is deducted making an actual weekly payment of £30.07.

From next week his child benefit rises to £15.70 and one parent benefit to £4.25. The other payments are unchanged so he will receive a total of £49.97 less £16 strike pay deduction. He ends up with a net payment of £33.97 or 10p less than he was getting.

Men back this week near 5000

Daily Telegraph Reporter
THERE were 856 new returning miners yesterday, bringing the total so far this week to 4,982.

Coal Board officials said that all of Scotland's 10 production pits had men working. Because of a confusion in national statistics this had not been made clear in the past 10 days.

"We are delighted to say that we have men, albeit a single man at one colliery, at all 10 of our production pits. Because of a confusion over figures and statistics generally, this has not shown up before in national statistics," said a Scottish N.C.B. official.

"Yesterday, for instance, national figures suggested we had three pits on strike—that is not so. The three pits deemed to be on strike—Polmaise, Bogside and Cardonno, are closed and were closed when the strike began. We regard these as non-production pits."

Double figures

There were 70 "new starters" in Scotland yesterday bringing the workforce there to 1,800. "This brings new starters to 800 this week and we expect this trend to continue," said an N.C.B. spokesman.

In eight of Scotland's production pits the workforce is now in double figures. One man is working at Carmie Colliery in Fife and four at Salsburgh Colliery-part of the Long Annexe complex in West Fife.

So far this week new starters have numbered 4,982. "It is coming along very nicely and we are very encouraged by the daily figures," the N.C.B. spokesman said.

Solid support

The two new men had returned to work in the South Wales coal field yesterday, bringing the workforce to 110 men. N.U.M. officials said the strike was still "solidly supported" there.

The North East coal field yesterday recorded 327 new starters swelling the work force to 2,521 men.

North East area Coal Board officials declared the strike effectively over at Whitby Colliery in Northumberland (where 415 out of 700 men were working) and to Tursdale workshops, Co. Durham, where 213 out of 430 returned to work.

There were 187 "new starters" in the Yorkshire coal field and in the Western area, another 75 men reported for work, swelling the work force there to 10,860.

Another 15 men reported for work in the South Midlands coal field. In North Derbyshire there were 176 "new starters."

STRIKE HEARING ARRANGEMENTS

By Our Political Staff

Twelve stipendiary magistrates have been appointed to sit until Dec. 21 at Birkenhead, Chesterfield, Rotherham, St Helens and Southrop to deal with cases arising from the miners' strike. Sir Michael Havers, Attorney-General, said in a Commons written answer yesterday.

He told Mrs Renee Short, (Lech, Wolverhampton North East) that further appointments would be made if requested by magistrates' courts committees.



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother sheltering under an umbrella at Kempton Park yesterday as she watched her horse "Luneda," the favourite, in the 1.45. The horse failed to finish.

Police right to turn back pickets' cars

By TERENCE SHAW Legal Correspondent

POLICE action in stopping and turning back cars carrying striking miners who, they believed, planned to take part in mass picketing which could have led to a breach of the peace was lawful, the Queen's Bench Divisional Court ruled yesterday.

In a test case appeal, Mr Justice Skinner and Mr Justice Otton dismissed appeals brought by four Yorkshire miners.

The men had claimed that the police exceeded their power when they stopped strikers' cars at an exit from the M1 in Nottinghamshire close to our collieries and ordered them to turn back.

When the miners refused, they were arrested and later convicted by magistrates at Mansfield of obstructing the police in the execution of their duty.

Mr Justice Skinner said that if a police constable anticipated on reasonable grounds that a breach of the peace may be committed, he was under a duty to take reasonable steps to prevent that breach occurring.

Detailed ruling

The mere presence of the men at the motorway junction in the context of the situation in the Nottinghamshire coalfields would have been enough to justify the police in taking preventative action.

It is the first time since the miners' dispute began last March that there has been a detailed ruling on the legality of the widespread and controversial police practice of intercepting suspected pickets and turning them back some distance from collieries where they fear trouble.

While the judgment clearly endorses such police action close to pits, it also makes it clear that the police must be satisfied that the feared breach of the peace must be imminent and immediate and "in close proximity both in place and time."

This must throw doubt on whether police acted lawfully earlier this year when they stopped Kent miners at the Dartford tunnel and warned them that they faced arrest if they tried to leave the county to join pickets from other areas.

£30m SHIPPING CONTRACT LOST TO W. GERMANY

By Our Shipping Correspondent

British Shipbuilders is to lose more big contracts to West Germany because it does not have the equipment to enlarge four Tyneside shipyard car ferries at a cost of £20 million.

"It is a very complicated job," said Mr W. J. Ayers, technical director of European shipbuilders, which owns Townsend Thoresen. "Only a few places in Europe are equipped for such a task and British Shipbuilders does not have the necessary heavy-lift crane capability."

Townsend Thoresen wants the ships cutting in two lengths to insert extra vehicle decks. They will also have a higher front section added. The order goes to Schichau Unterweser, of Bremen, who will start in January and the actual conversion over a 12-month period from June.

HEATHROW TO GET OWN FORCE

By Our Crime Staff

Heathrow Airport is to have its own police force again. It had a separate force until 1974, when Scotland Yard took over during a major IRA bombing campaign.

It will become a separate district in the Metropolitan police from Jan. 1. At present the airport is the headquarters of a district which includes West Drayton, Staines and Sunbury. They will be incorporated into other districts.

PORTS CHARGES RISE

By Our Shipping Correspondent

A five per cent. increase in charges will be made by the ports of Tees and Hartlepool on January 1 after "a disappointing year affected by pit and dock strikes."

COASTER BEATS BLOCKADE

By Our Industrial Staff
TRADE unions yesterday launched an investigation into how a small coastal collier, the Kindrance, beat the TUC-inspired blockade of coastal power stations and delivered 3,000 tons of Cumbrian coal to Shoreham power station in Sussex.

The vessel's coal drop is believed to be the first sea delivery of British-mined fuel to a C.E.G.B. power station since the 37-week miners' strike began.

Shoreham power station has traditionally relied for its supplies on coalfields which are now strike-bound and whose pithead stocks are besieged by N.U.M. pickets.

Many other coastal power stations, including the major installations on the Thames Estuary, are in similar circumstances.

The 1,596-ton Kindrance, which is owned by the Rochester-based Crescent Shipping Line, is on time-charter to the C.E.G.B. She is one of about 30 colliers which in normal times ply British coasts delivering fuel to power stations.

The National Union of Seamen, one of the N.U.M.'s die-hard supporters in the strike, which has banned its members from carrying power station coal, has ordered an investigation into how the ship "slipped the net."

In fact the crew of five officers and five ratings are not N.U.S. members, although it is believed that some of them may belong to the Transport Workers' Union.

Because of the small scale of the delivery and the equally small power output of the Shoreham station, the incident is not regarded by union leaders as particularly important in itself. But they are aware that if similar deliveries are attempted elsewhere, it will throw a critical spotlight on the effectiveness, or otherwise, of the TUC's guidelines governing fuel deliveries.

These call on transport workers, in road, rail or sea, not to "engage in or facilitate" the distribution of coal to power stations, and call on power station workers not to handle new deliveries.

But where these guidelines have been tested, the response has been patchy.

For example, coal from Cumbria has gone to Fiddlers Ferry Station, near Chester, where a union non-acceptance rule ostensibly applies.

STRIKERS SEIZE UNION HQ

Strikers from Lancashire yesterday took over the National Union of Mineworkers' North Wales headquarters at Wrexham after the resumption of production at Bersham colliery.

The barricaded themselves inside with gas canisters and furniture and ordered local pit leaders off the premises. Mr Steve Howells, 28, a colliery mechanic who led the takeover, said they intended to remain there as long as the strike lasted.

NEW BUS CHAIRMAN

By Our Transport Correspondent

Mr Robert Brook, 55, chief executive of National Bus, will become chairman as well from January 1 when Lord Shepherd ends six years in the chair. Mr Ridley, Transport Secretary, said Mr Brook would prepare the company for decentralisation.

NEW PORT MANAGER

By Our Shipping Correspondent

Mr Stuart Bradley, 48, will be promoted from deputy manager to manager of the port of Hull next July when Mr Geoffrey Collingwood retires after a 48-year career there.

Demand in Notts to take 5.28pc and end overtime ban

By JAMES O'BRIEN

DEMANDS are growing among Nottinghamshire's 30,500 miners for acceptance of the Coal Board's 5.28 per cent. offer and for an end to the overtime ban.

Petitions have been appearing at pits, particularly in South Nottinghamshire.

But some full-time NUM officials and branch officers say the move goes against the national executive, and pits Nottinghamshire outside union rules.

The pressure can pay and overtime has recently been reinforced by the Board's offer of lump sum payments to miners who have recently returned to work.

Unofficial soundings by colliery managers on the pay offer have been described in the past as "ill-advised moves" by moderate leaders of working miners in Nottinghamshire.

Out of order

The petitions are circulating at numerous pits, including Babbington and Newstead. Mr Kenneth Duckworth, N.U.M. branch secretary at Babbington, said he would have no connection with the petitions. "Such things as pay and overtime take place within the procedures laid down between the Board and the union. Petitions are out of order."

Members of the National Working Miners' Committee said they would be unable to hold back any demands on pay and overtime once they start in significant numbers.

Working miners in other

areas are watching the developments in Nottinghamshire with interest, and see any moves there as applying optional.

Mr Ian MacGregor, Coal Board chairman, has told Nottinghamshire miners that he would not go outside accepted negotiating procedures to pay the 5.28 per cent., which had not been accepted by the NUM.

The North Derbyshire area NCB will pay £280,000 in this week to 3,689 miners who have now worked a week in hand.

Miners starting work this week will receive between £1,500 and £200 gross before Christmas, which includes four weeks' holiday pay, three weeks' incentive bonuses, advance wages for Christmas week, annual holiday pay and their annual service bonuses.

There is a tax-free element on the personal allowances for those who have returned but not worked since the start of the dispute.

£6.80 a week

Payment of the 5.28 per cent. would add £6.80 a week, increasing their earnings to £137.10 without overtime and incentive payments. It would add £5 for the lowest underground grade, £5.75 on the highest surface grade and £4.80 on the lowest surface grade, taking gross weekly earnings to £89 without bonuses.

About 40 per cent. of those employed in the pits work overtime, and the ban has resulted in a reduction of 30 per cent. in normal output.

Maxwell in talks over printing plant

By MAURICE WEAVER Industrial Staff

THE Thomson Organisation confirmed yesterday that it was engaged in talks with Mr Robert Maxwell, proprietor of Mirror Group Newspapers, about the sale of the Thomson House printing plant in Withy Grove, Manchester.

The plant, which prints northern editions of four national newspapers including Mr Maxwell's DAILY and SUNWAY, has been expected to close when existing contracts run out at the end of 1985.

But yesterday Mr George Dunn, managing director of Thomson Withy Grove Ltd., a subsidiary of the International Thomson Organisation, confirmed that negotiations with Mr Maxwell have been in progress since September.

The Mirror Group is currently digesting its findings and talking with the trade unions before resuming negotiations in the next few weeks.

No details of a possible purchase price have yet emerged. In taking over the Withy Grove plant, once the biggest newspaper printing centre in Europe, Mr Maxwell would be aware that its contract print will not continue at its present level.

Job discussions

Mirror Group Newspapers print about 1,500,000 copies of the DAILY MIRROR at Thomson House six nights a week and a similar number of the SUNWAY MIRROR on Saturdays.

How many of the existing 1,780 Withy Grove employees would be required to handle this reduced business, is to be the subject of discussions with the print unions concerned.

A spokesman for Mr Maxwell said last night: "We are interested in purchasing Thomson House and are having exploratory talks."

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£30m SHIPPING CONTRACT LOST TO W. GERMANY

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PORTS CHARGES RISE

By Our Shipping Correspondent

A five per cent. increase in charges will be made by the ports of Tees and Hartlepool on January 1 after "a disappointing year affected by pit and dock strikes."

The Cathedral alone took 43,435 days to complete. And most of those were in the 12th century. Peterborough has been important since Roman times, giving it the kind of charm that only comes with 2,000 years of natural growth. It's not a planner's dream, which so often turns out to be a resident's nightmare.

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DISCOVER THE PETERBOROUGH EFFECT. IT'S BEEN WORKING FOR CENTURIES.

SIX GUILTY OF KRUGERRAND £2m VAT PLOT

By IAN HENRY Old Bailey Correspondent

A WEALTHY self-made businessman, Roy Garner, was convicted at the Old Bailey yesterday of a £2 million VAT evasion plot involving Krugerrands worth £300 each.

GARNER, 48, of Cannon Hill, Southgate, had denied conspiracy to evade the tax on £14 million of Krugerrands.

SALESMAN FAKED £1m ORDERS

A COMPUTER salesman's bosses were so impressed by the £1 million worth of orders he brought in that they arranged a champagne celebration to toast him. But yesterday Mr Richard O'Rourke, prosecuting, told St Albans Crown Court the orders were faked.

Timothy Wilks, 27, told his bosses at Delta Data Systems that companies such as W. H. Smith and Tottenham Hotspur Football Club wanted to buy their systems. He even presented forged orders to support the sales. By the time the fraud was discovered he had earned himself £8,000 commission.

Now the company, based in Welwyn Garden City, have been left counting the cost. They had to buy more than £200,000 of computer hardware and also sub-contracted £100,000 worth of work to keep up with the orders.

Wilks, of Milton Manor Drive, Little Milton, Essex, pleaded guilty to three forgery charges and asked for six other offences to be considered. He was given a two-year jail sentence, with 18 months suspended.

Told many lies

Mr O'Rourke said Wilks, who earned £12,000 a year had joined the firm in February and towards the end of the month had won an order for £150,000. "That was the beginning of what seems to have been a very successful period of obtaining orders. It was followed by some 24 orders in quick succession within the next four weeks," he said.

Mr William Hunter, defending, said that although the loss to the firm was estimated at £300,000, it would "probably eventually be about £100,000."

He added that Wilks had a deep-seated untruthfulness and had told his wife many lies.

Woman who killed cruel husband freed

A MOTHER of five who shot her cruel and sadistic husband was freed by Mr Justice Russell in Manchester Crown Court yesterday. He said to her: "I think you have suffered enough."

Mrs PAULINE WYATT said as she left the court she was relieved she had been allowed to spend Christmas with her children whose ages range from 11 years and 16 months.

"In 12 years of marriage, I have never had a happy Christmas but we have all been looking forward to this one," she said.

Mrs Wyatt, 29, was put on probation for three years after being convicted of the manslaughter of her husband Charles at their home in Flora Drive, Salford, Manchester. She was found not guilty of murder.

Strange threat

She shot him from point-blank range with a shotgun as he slept just a few hours after he threatened to "skin" two of their children, stab two others and strangle the baby.

The husband had made their marriage a "living hell," the court was told. He had thrown knives at her, had thrust a loaded shotgun into her mouth and poured paraffin over her head and threatened to ignite it.

On one occasion he strangled their two parrots and choked their puppy before shooting it with an air rifle, and had shaved her head forcing her to wear a wig. Wyatt had also treated him to a dose, making her sit under the table.

COURT RESERVES PILL JUDGMENT

Three Appeal Court judges yesterday reserved judgment on an attempt to overturn a High Court judge's refusal to ban doctors from putting under-age schoolgirls on the contraceptive pill without their parents' consent.

Mrs Victoria Gillick, 37, a mother of 10, is seeking a declaration that Department of Health and Social Security guidelines, which gave doctors the right to give advice and contraception to under-age girls without their parents' consent, are unlawful. No date has been fixed for the judgment.

HAMMER BLOW

Mr Martin Lewis, a blacksmith, has been given 90 days to soundproof his forge after neighbours in Stanton, St Bernard, Wiltshire, complained to the local council about the noise of his hammer.



Newly-weds Mr David Threlfall, 41, and his wife Susan, 36, who will be spending their honeymoon next week at the Common Cold research centre at Salisbury, Wilts, where they met last year as volunteer "guinea pigs." The couple, who were married at Newbury, Berks, on Wednesday, will have a 10-day, all expenses-paid stay at the centre. Last year they had to keep their distance—at least 30ft apart to prevent cross-infection—but the rule does not apply to married couples.

Hard-up judge stole cheques

DEPUTY Circuit Judge PETER MORRIS stole

from a colleague at his legal practice because he was hard up, magistrates at Hertford were told yesterday, by Mr ROLAND PELL, defending.

Morris, 46, who used to sit as a judge at Chelmsford Crown Court, paid a cheque sent to a fellow barrister into a secret building society account, using a false name. He pleaded guilty to three charges of theft, as well as forgery and obtaining money by deception.

False claims

Morris, described as a specialist in crime, was given a prison sentence of six months, suspended for two years.

The chairman of the magistrates, Mr ROBERT MOSCOW, said to him: "You abused your

position as a member of the colleague at their chambers in the city.

One, for £246, had been paid into the secret account and £200 of it subsequently withdrawn. Mr Pelly said Morris had resigned from his legal practice and was now unemployed.

Miss CLAIRE REGGIONI, prosecuting, said that when confronted with his crimes, Morris first claimed his son was a drug addict and had stolen the cheques, and then that he had needed the money to pay for an abortion for his own girlfriend.

Both explanations were untrue.

Mr Pelly said Morris had financial difficulties. "The tragedy is that if he had swallowed his pride for a moment, there were perhaps 100 people he had known who could have given him or lent him the temporary necessary funds to tide him over."

The court heard that Morris, of Milton Road, Cambridge, stole three cheques sent to a

Young robbers sprayed victims with tear gas

A GANG of ruthless young robbers called "The Firm" terrorised shopkeepers and mugged members of the public, sometimes spraying their victims with tear gas.

In four months the gang, aged between 16 and 22, stole £16,000 in cash and property.

Stores, like D. H. Evans, Woolworths, W. H. Smith, Boots and Tesco, were raided, often "mob-handed," by as many as 50 youths.

Small corner shops, usually run by Asians, were picked on, said Mr MICHAEL STUART-MOORE, prosecuting at Wood Green Crown Court.

Most of the gang were black, but at least two, one a leading member, were white.

Mr Stuart-Moore said the gang members bought their tear gas or CS gas canisters, for between £5 and £15, from people attending Arsenal Football Club's Highbury stadium.

"These canisters are sold on the Continent as a weapon of self-defence. They are obviously as good when used as weapons of offence," he said.

Admitted robbery

Eight "hard core" members of the gang admitted numerous offences of robbery, burglary, theft and assault. They are:

TONY O'KEEFE, 21, of Chettle Court, Ridge Road, and ALAN WATSON, of Horseley Park Road, both of Hounslow; and MICHAEL LAPIERRE, 16, of The Crossways, Peter Road, 19, of Park Road, Rowney Gardens, 18, of Maryland Road, ALAN JOHN, 17, of Gladstone Avenue, BASIL ALLEYNE, 17, Crossford Gardens, and TONY SCARBOROUGH, 18, of Lordship Lane, all Wood Green.

O'Keefe was jailed for five years. Baker and Groom received four years youth custody each; John and Alleyne three years youth custody each. Scarborough was sentenced to two years youth custody and Watson jailed for two years.

Lapiere was sentenced to detention for a maximum period of four years. He was described by Judge Neil Burton, Q.C., as a "danger and serious risk" to the public.

The judge said: "This is an ordinary case. With one exception you are all guilty of taking part in vicious and cowardly attacks on innocent people."

"One thing that comes out clearest of all is your complete indifference and lack of regard for your victims."

COSY CHATS 'DO NOT STOP LOUITS'

NASTY and loutish behaviour by people who drank too much would not be stopped by cosy chats with probation officers and digging gardens for old ladies, senior Appeal Court Judge Lord Justice Lawton said yesterday.

The judge, who sat with Mr Justice Cantley and Sir John Thompson, was commenting before the court upheld suspended jail sentences totalling 12 months on an unemployed man, aged 25.

John Walsley, of Chelwood Close, Brighton, sentenced at Lewes Crown Court on Dec 12 last year for robbery and burglary, had his appeal dismissed.

The judge said the burglary involved a shop window being broken with an elbow, and the robbery of shop manager being intimidated into handing over ice cream.

It was loutish behaviour of a type all too common and which should be discouraged, the appeal judge said.

POLY ORDERED TO NAME STUDENTS

Mr Justice Leonard to the High Court yesterday ordered North London Polytechnic to disclose the names and addresses of students who tried to bar Mr Patrick Harrington, a National Front official, from philosophy lectures last week.

He also ruled that the Polytechnic authorities must identify student lawbreakers on written request from Mr Harrington's solicitors. Mr Harrington is taking contempt proceedings against activists breaking a High Court injunction outlawing any attempt to stop him attending lectures.

MATTER OF TASTE

A Michigan public library has decided to ban readers with "poor personal hygiene" in a ruling civil rights groups say is aimed at harring vagrants.

On October 20th, SIA made aviation history with the first non-stop flight to Singapore. Every Monday, Thursday and Saturday, as part of our daily service, our exclusive BIG TOP 747s fly you non-stop from London to Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland and Auckland just one stop away. With the kind of in-flight service even other airlines talk about.

ANNOUNCING THE FIRST NON-STOP FLIGHT TO SINGAPORE.
ONE GIANT STEP FORWARD FOR BUSINESSMANKIND.

RUSSIA SHELVES KEY POINTS FOR WEAPON TALKS

By NIGEL WADE in Moscow

THE Russians appear to have temporarily shelved two key preconditions to enable a proposed January meeting between the nations' foreign ministers.

But diplomats in Moscow said last night there was nothing to stop Russia re-imposing hard-line conditions at a later stage.

The preconditions are that new American missiles be removed from Europe before talks limiting medium-range weapons continue and that Washington accepts an anti-satellite weapons test moratorium before talks on demilitarisation of space.

An agreed statement made in Moscow and Washington yesterday spoke of "new talks with the aim of achieving mutually acceptable agreements on the entire complex of questions concerning nuclear and space weapons."

Mr Gromyko and Mr Shultz, the ministers involved, would meet in Geneva on Jan. 7-8 to "work out a joint understanding of the subject and aims of such talks."

There was no mention of Cruise and Pershing missiles being withdrawn from Western Europe or of any halt to testing space weapons. Diplomats said it was not immediately clear whether the Americans had made any equivalent concessions to get talks going.

Meanwhile Mr Kinnock, the Labour leader, who saw Mr George Arbatov, the Kremlin's top adviser on American affairs, in Moscow yesterday, said he would be seeking further clarification when he meets President Chernomir and Mr Gromyko on Monday.

Mr Kinnock said the question of "precisely what, if any, conditions the Russians might still involve in arms control bargaining" would have to be closely studied.

Mr Vladimir Loev, spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry, formally read out the Soviet-American announcement to Western and Russian news-summers summoned to the Ministry last night.

He stressed that the proposed talks were new and not a resumption of the earlier Geneva arms talks broken off by Moscow after cruise and Pershing deployment began in Western Europe a year ago.

If it were suggested that the talks should continue, the spokesman said, it would be necessary for the American missiles to be withdrawn as a precondition. But in January anything could be discussed.

It would be up to Mr Shultz and Mr Gromyko to work out what they would talk about. Mr Kinnock said the announcement of a Shultz-Gromyko meeting was seen by him and Mr Arbatov as the beginning of an "encouraging" process.

Mr Arbatov, asked if he now saw genuine movement toward arms control, replied in English: "I think it is not too late to make such decisive and categorical statements. Disarmament talks depend on given policies, not on some form of technical things."

"I hope that something will happen, that movement will start, but as for how it will go..." continued with a shrug.

Mr Arbatov directs the Institute for the United States and Canada and often visits America. Asked why the Russians had decided to talk to the Reagan administration, he said: "We were ready to do it all the time." Mr Chernomir had proposed "a whole menu of issues which could be solved. It was the Americans who had not shown readiness."

"If we survive" Mr Arbatov sounded cautiously hopeful when asked if he saw a possible return to détente. "If there is the political will, it is possible. In the long term it is even inevitable. If we survive these difficult times."

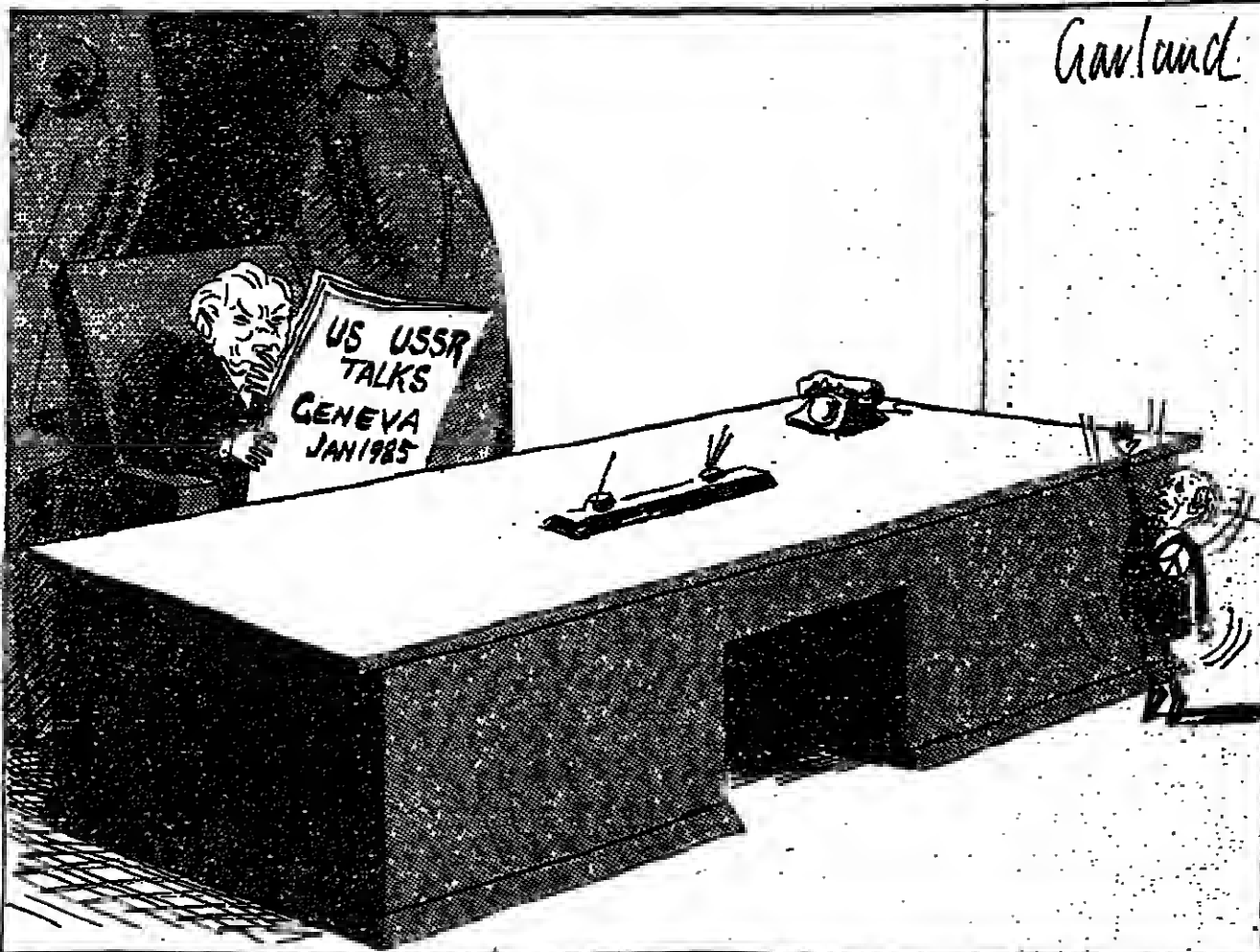
The Labour party is committed to abandon unilaterally Britain's nuclear deterrent force. Mr Kinnock said he stressed to Mr Arbatov that Labour would maintain a strong credible commitment to Nato.

He emphasised that Labour was determined to "sustain that commitment in its most effective and modern form."

The Labour leader is due to meet President Chernomir and Mr Gromyko on Monday. He said he would emphasise to them the need for East-West dialogue and also Labour's commitment to the Western alliance.

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OPTIMISM AT NATO TALKS

By JOAN CLEMENTS in The Hague

THERE was some optimism last night in The Hague, where Nato Defence Ministers met for the first time within the framework of the Independent European Programme Group.

It was felt there would be agreement on a political directive and co-operation programme at the close of the talks today.

The 12 Nato Defence Ministers, including Mr Heseltine, are meeting to discuss ways to achieve effective co-operation in arms production.

The Ministers will also discuss specific joint production projects, including military transport planes and a new heavy-duty tank. A new helicopter is likely to be included on the agenda for future consideration.

Increasing willingness But sources say that the Ministers will have travelled a long way if a firm directive in the form of a strong political statement is announced today.

The Independent European Programme Group, established in 1976, consists of all European member states of Nato (including France) with the exception of Iceland. The chairman, which rotates every other year, is at present held by the Netherlands.

A Nato official said yesterday that there was an increasing willingness to co-operate as "all countries begin to realise the high cost of producing new weapons."

In a paper submitted to a meeting of the Euro group's Defence Ministers, of which he is chairman, Mr Heseltine said a particular effort should be made to bring together existing differences in procurement timetables.

"HITLER DIARIES" MAN RE-ARRESTED

By Our Bonn Correspondent

Konrad Kujaw, 46, the self-confessed forger of the bogus "Hitler Diaries" was re-arrested in Hamburg yesterday after a ruling last week that he should be released from custody was overturned.

Kujaw was first arrested in May 1983 and charged with fraud, together with Gerd Heidemann, 54, the former STCA reporter who acquired the diaries for the magazine for £2.5 million.

On visits to famine areas Mr O'Keefe saw the high camp at Makale to which the RAF is airlifting food, and a relief centre run by the Irish Concilio Agency at Harbo, near Kombolcha.

"Actually seeing the situation on the ground has left a local impact on me. They were obviously making efforts to cope efficiently but the situation was appalling," he said.

Mr O'Keefe, who returns to Dublin today, said his immediate concern was the critically low level of emergency food stocks at the Red Sea port of Assab which provide the grain for the airlift to famine victims in the North.

Mr O'Keefe said he would be making a report and analysis of the situation to the EEC foreign ministers and would be asking for a greatly increased amount of food aid to be sent from EEC grain surpluses.

Irish seek more EEC grain for Ethiopia

By R. BARRY O'BRIEN in Addis Ababa

A BIG increase in emergency food aid from Europe's grain stocks for Ethiopia's six million famine victims, was urged in Addis Ababa yesterday by Mr Jim O'Keefe, the Irish Republic's Foreign Affairs Minister.

The minister, who has been visiting some famine areas and meeting aid workers and officials, said he would be making this plea as Ireland's representative at the EEC Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Brussels next Monday.

Mr O'Keefe said Ethiopia would need a minimum of one million tons of food aid in the next 12 months and the international community must commit itself to a much greater extent than in the past.

"The problem here is of appalling dimensions. Anyone who sees it will fully understand the nature of the catastrophe," he said.

The United States had pledged a minimum of 215,000 tons of food aid to Ethiopia in 1983 which would certainly be increased and the EEC should match this. The Community had given 117,000 tons in 1984 and some additional commitments which had not been finalised.

Needs 'so great' "I accept that the European Community and member states have contributed very substantially but the needs are so great it is my firm belief that an even greater element of support is necessary from the Community," he said.

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BRAZIL IN SPACE Brazil yesterday fired a "local" rocket described as the culmination of 20 years' research. Weighing more than seven tons the 36-foot Sonda 4 was said to be the first step in a programme aimed at launching a satellite by 1989.

Crash kills 25 Twenty-five people were killed and 47 injured when an overcrowded commuter train derailed yesterday while changing tracks five miles from Bombay. —A.P.

POLITICIAN KILLED The beheaded and mutilated body of Mahbub Alam, 43, a senior vice-chairman of the Bangladesh People's League, was found in a container at Kamalapur in Dhaka police station yesterday. Newspapers said he had enemies among people to whom he was reported to have advanced money. —A.P.

PEKING TO LET RACING GO ON IN HONGKONG By Our Peking Correspondent Peking has promised the Royal Hongkong Jockey Club that horse racing can continue in the colony after the 1997 take-over, even though gambling is illegal in China, it was reported in the South China Morning Post.

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ZIMBABWE ABDUCTORS TO DIE

By Our Harare Correspondent

TWO dissidents who took part in 1982 in the abduction of six tourists were sentenced to death yesterday in Zimbabwe's High Court.

Mr Justice Wilson Sandura found them guilty of an "act of terrorism" as defined under the Law and Order Maintenance Act, which carries the death penalty.

Gilbert Ngwenya, 42, and Austin Mpora, 25, refused to enter a plea, and they shouted support for the minority Zanu (Zimbabwe African Peoples Union) party of Mr Joshua Nkomo.

Ngwenya said he commanded the group that seized the two Britons, two Americans and two Australians near Bulawayo. He claimed they were still alive and had been handed over to "some Soviet people, in Zambia."

Not told the truth The judge said the accused had not told the truth about the tourists. They had not been heard from since they were seized.

Mpora has now been sentenced to death twice. Last week he was convicted of murdering five white civilians and a black policeman.

The six tourists are James Greenwell, 20, from North Wales; Maryna Hodgson, 37, from Peterborough; two Americans, Brett Baldwin and Kevin Ellis, both 25; and two Australians, Tony Barrell, 27, and William Butler, 33.

MURDOCH'S £280m FOR MAGAZINES By Our New York Staff Mr Rupert Murdoch has paid £280 million to add 12 highly profitable travel and aviation magazines to his American publishing empire.

The magazines from the Ziff Davis Group comprise Travel, Wonders, which is distributed to travel agents, three aviation newsletters and eight specialist travel publications.

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£20m airline order may go to US. after EEC bans British

By ALAN OSBORN in Brussels

BRITAIN'S fight to retain a £20 million contract to provide aircraft for a Caribbean airline appeared to have failed yesterday after the EEC confirmed that the airline must buy French.

Leeward Islands Air Transport is now expected to seek a deal with the United States or Canada.

The Brussels Commission, which is providing development aid to the airline, feels it has a say in the company's purchasing plans.

It announced yesterday that it is standing by its decision to recommend that French planes replace the ageing British fleet.

Leeward, owned by a consortium of Caribbean Governments, had applied for finance from the EEC's Development Fund to buy four new aircraft for a island-hopping service.

The company chose the British Aerospace Super-748 plane, but the Fund said the French-built ATR-42 offered better prospects of profit.

Bank approval Leeward said it did not need the more advanced and still largely experimental French plane, and the Commission agreed to rethink its decision.

The Super-748 had been endorsed by the Caribbean Development Bank, involved in the deal, and also by Aer Lingus, as an impartial arbitrator.

The airline's managing director, Capt. Arthur Foster, said yesterday: "We cannot take the risk of ordering a new technology aircraft like the ATR-42 until it has a track record. We know the 748 because we operate them already."

British officials fear that if the business does go to France, the way will be opened for increased penetration by France in a market dominated by Britain.

Mr Richard Cottrell, Conservative Euro-M.P. for London South East, said he would call for a full inquiry into how the Commission awarded contracts.

CIA SEEKS AID TO GAIN T.V. 'FAIRNESS' By Our Washington Staff The CIA has asked the Federal Communications Commission to look into what it calls a "deliberately distorted" report by ABC television that the agency had conspired to kill an American citizen.

The CIA says the network had violated the fairness doctrine. It claims it was falsely accused of conspiring to kill Ronald Reagan, a man accused of fraud in a Honolulu case.

ABC News broadcast a partial response on Wednesday night saying it accepted the CIA denial of the assassination charge. But the agency is not satisfied and says the network refused to address other offending aspects of its September report.

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CRASH KILLS 25 Twenty-five people were killed and 47 injured when an overcrowded commuter train derailed yesterday while changing tracks five miles from Bombay. —A.P.

POLITICIAN KILLED The beheaded and mutilated body of Mahbub Alam, 43, a senior vice-chairman of the Bangladesh People's League, was found in a container at Kamalapur in Dhaka police station yesterday. Newspapers said he had enemies among people to whom he was reported to have advanced money. —A.P.

PEKING TO LET RACING GO ON IN HONGKONG By Our Peking Correspondent Peking has promised the Royal Hongkong Jockey Club that horse racing can continue in the colony after the 1997 take-over, even though gambling is illegal in China, it was reported in the South China Morning Post.

About 470 races are held at the Shatin racecourse during its 65 meetings each year, with prize money among the highest in the world. The club estimates that gamblers invest about £5 million on each race.

Gen. Sir John Archer, the club's chief executive, said he had received an assurance about the future from Mr Xu Jiatun, who as director of the New China News Agency in Hongkong is de facto Chinese Consul-General in the colony.

RAPIST EXECUTED After helping to jail criminals in China's Kiangsu province, a chief prosecutor's clerk visited their wives and raped them, the New China News Agency said yesterday. Wang Baoling, 36, was executed on Tuesday for assaulting six women.

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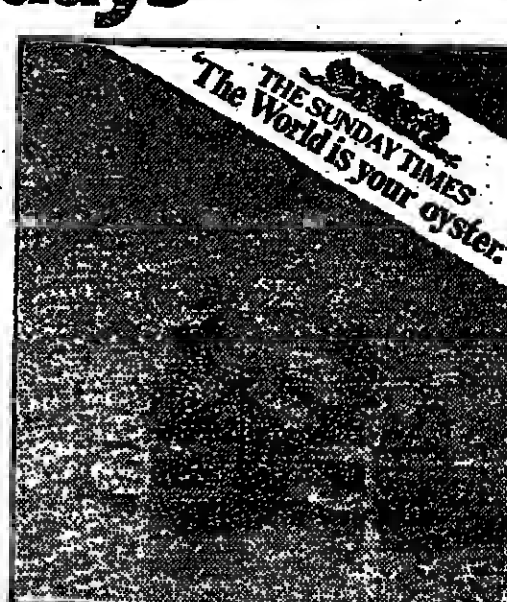
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DT-24-11

HUSSEIN WALKS TIGHTROPE AS PLO MEDIATOR

By JOHN BULLOCH in Amman

KING HUSSEIN of Jordan yesterday offered the total support of his kingdom to the men his Army once tried to destroy.

The King, speaking in a hall so well guarded that many correspondents reporting the meeting of the Palestine National Council were denied admission, called for an international conference on the Middle-

East at which the Palestine Liberation Organisation would play a full role.

CHAD FIASCO HUMILIATES FRANCE

By MICHAEL FIELD
in Paris

FRANCE, still without confirmation that the Libyans are keeping their word and withdrawing from Chad, seems caught between the alternatives of humiliation or war.

Chad Government forces are continuing their build-up in the North, including elements of President Hachem's crack Presidential Guard.

The Cabinet met in N'djamena yesterday morning to review the situation after President Hachem's long talks with M. Charles Hernu and Gen. I. Acaze, respectively French Defence Minister and Chief of Staff.

Informed sources in Paris said the suspense was likely to continue at least until the weekend and that President Mitterrand, paying an official visit to Syria next week, might even defer his decision on the next move in his duel with Col. Gaddafi until his return next Wednesday.

Defence denial

The Quai d'Orsay has dismissed as "inexact" a statement on Wednesday by the Greek official spokesman in Athens that a new Franco-Libyan Commission had been set up to monitor troop withdrawals in Chad.

Simultaneously the Defence Ministry in Paris put out a similar statement "formally denying" the presence of French military observers on the ground in Chad.

Mr. Dimitrios Maroudas, the Greek spokesman, had said the Franco-Libyan Commission had been agreed by President Mitterrand and Col. Gaddafi at their Crete "summit" a week ago.

Mr. Jean Lecanuet, President of the Giscardian Opposition Union for French Democracy, who is also chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, called the situation "a diplomatic fiasco" for France.

'Pulling out'

The Chad affair has revived a prediction, first disclosed a fortnight ago by a French weekly magazine, that M. Claude Cheysson, Foreign Minister, would shortly be leaving his post and would be replaced by M. Roland Dumas, 62, currently Minister for European Affairs and Government spokesman.

M. Dumas is a close friend and long-time political associate of President Mitterrand, who is believed to have arranged for M. Cheysson to return to Brussels as an EEC Commissioner.

Paris might just have got away with the claim that Libyan troops had basically withdrawn, had it not been for American satellite reconnaissance.

This has irritated the French who are convinced that while Washington urges its allies to boycott Libya, it is itself conducting lucrative trade with the pariah country.

In Athens yesterday, Libya's Foreign Minister, Tariq, said Libyan forces were now pulling out of Chad, following a delay.

Objective observer

PAUL ANAST in Athens writes: Mr. Carlos Papoulas, Greek Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs, left for Libya yesterday to act as "objective observer" for the recent agreement between France and Libya to withdraw any remaining military forces from Chad.

The conference should be United Nations-sponsored and should include permanent members of the Security Council as well as all parties to the conflict, he said.

Palestinians should be on an equal footing with all other delegations as they were the party empowered to address the most important and momentous aspect of the crisis.

This was a reference to the decision by the Arab League of State in Rabat to give the P.L.O. "the sole right to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people."

In the past it had been suggested that Palestinians should be members of a Jordanian delegation to any conference.

End stalemate

The King emphasised that the question of negotiations was for the Palestine National Council to decide. "If you think you can go it alone, then we say, 'Good speed, you have our support'."

At the same time, his careful speech was a clear call for a joint Palestine-Jordanian effort to break the Middle East stalemate.

The King's calculation was that an initiative led by himself and the relatively moderate section of the P.L.O. loyal to its chairman, Yasser Arafat, would gain American support and force Israel into talks.

The United Nations Resolution 242, which called for Israeli withdrawal in return for peace and recognition, should be the basis of all negotiations, he said.

King Hussein has previously called for an international conference but by subtly changing his proposal last night he got away from the position in which such a meeting would have to be a continuation of the Geneva conference which followed the 1973 War.

The King widened his proposals so that the United Nations Secretary-General might be the one to convene the meeting. He also brought in other powers as permanent members of the Security Council.

By calling for a full Palestinian delegation King Hussein played to his audience at the Palestine National Council meeting, and by sticking closely to the Rabat decision he appeared his moderate Arab neighbours.

"It was a masterly display of diplomatic tightrope walking," remarked one of the ambassadors who heard it.

Editorial Comment—P22

COURT ANNULS JOURNALIST'S SENTENCE

Greek's Supreme Court has annulled a one-year jail sentence imposed on a journalist for claiming in a book that the country's top-selling newspaper was published in co-operation with the disinformation department of the K.G.B. the Soviet intelligence service.

A court spokesman said the Supreme Court decided that an Appeal Court ruling in May had contravened Greek legal regulations by failing to explain why the sentence was not suspended, as the appeal court prosecutor suggested. No date was set for the new appeal hearings.

The decision came after a 17-month legal tussle between Paul Anast, who writes for the Daily Telegraph and The New York Times, and the publisher and the editor of ETIMOS, George Bobolias and Alexander Filippopoulos.—A.P.



Dr. Mario Soares, Portuguese Prime Minister, at the Tower of London yesterday on the last day of a three-day visit to Britain. He spent an hour in "very friendly discussion" with Mrs. Thatcher on Wednesday, talking about the problems affecting Portugal's entry to the E.E.C. which is set for Jan. 1, 1986. Portugal is often described as Britain's oldest ally—the two countries are linked by a 600-year-old treaty.

Sri Lanka under curfew to prevent ethnic violence

By FILMA WINALADASA in Colombo

A PRE-EMPTIVE island-wide curfew was imposed in Sri Lanka from 6 a.m. yesterday to 6 a.m. today to prevent any repetition of ethnic violence of the kind that occurred in July, 1983.

The funerals of most of the 29 people killed in a police-station explosion at Chavakacheri were due to be held yesterday.

Last year ethnic violence broke out when the bodies of 14 soldiers killed in a terrorist ambush by Tamil separatists were brought to Colombo.

The present curfew follows sporadic isolated incidents late on Wednesday. Two Tamil shops in Thiruvirgava, four miles south of Colombo, were burned, but there was no loss of life, the Government says.

Mr. Jaffin Athulathmudali, Minister of National Security, said that the Government decided to impose the curfew as a precautionary measure after finding that anti-social elements were trying to provoke people by spreading rumours.

He asked the public not to believe rumours, and said stern action would be taken against rumour mongers.

Last year the Government was accused of not making a firm effort to nip the situation

in the bud, and soldiers and police were said to have turned a blind eye when mobs went on the rampage, killing Tamils and setting fire to cars, homes and business places.

Rumour was rife then, and it fanned the flames. When the Government decided to take firm action about 300 Tamils had lost their lives and hundreds of Tamil establishments had been destroyed.

This time the Government decided to take no chances, and at the first sign of an anti-Tamil backlash declared a 24-hour curfew.

The Government also denied as baseless rumours of further violence in the Palali and Elephant Pass Army camps in the Jaffna peninsula.

The leader of the Tamil United Liberation Front (T.U.L.F.) Mr. Amirthalingam, said of the attack on the Chavakacheri police station: "We have always been opposed to violence. It is counter-productive to our cause."

While the T.U.L.F. is trying to negotiate on the issue of autonomy for the predominantly Tamil north of the island in the form of a regional council, many young Tamils tend to see this as useless because the Government will not give way.

The Daily Telegraph
Friday, Nov. 25, 1984

5

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Many householders think that when they are sliding patio doors they are going to get both leaves sliding—like the London Underground—it was claimed today.

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"We are frequently asked to replace old doors with this new type to give all the thermal and acoustic advantages, together with 100 p.c. access," said Mr. Groves. "This is particularly relevant where the existing appearance is to be maintained, and if access is needed for wheelchairs or the like."

See Coupon on page 14.

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BASQUES CLASH WITH POLICE IN MURDER PROTEST STRIKE

By TIM BROWN in Madrid

BASQUE rioters hurling rocks and petrol bombs fought with police yesterday during a one-day general strike coinciding with the funeral of the murdered separatist leader Dr Santi Brouard.

Dozens of arrests were reported in the three Basque provinces, all but paralysed by the strike which closed factories, stores and schools and halted public transport.

Practically all Basque political parties and unions supported the strike, called after Tuesday's murder of Dr Brouard, 64, a separatist leader and the separatist party Herri Batasuna. Yesterday in Madrid doctors were treating complications after emergency surgery on Gen. Luis Roson, critically wounded by separatist ETA gunmen in a revenge shooting. The recently retired General, 66, was hit four times when his car was ambushed in rush-hour traffic on a main Madrid street on Wednesday.

Bar bombed

Riot police reinforced by mobile units sent into the Basque country from elsewhere in Spain clashed with Left-wing separatist students and workers yesterday in incidents that included the burning of a Spanish flag, destruction of buses, scores of street barricades and at least

one attack on a Socialist party headquarters.

Police, who made dozens of arrests, fired rubber bullets and smoke grenades during confrontations in and around the major cities of Bilbao, San Sebastian and Vitoria, capital of the Basque country.

Herri Batasuna, the coalition of extreme Left-wing separatist parties of which Dr Brouard was a prominent national council member, set the ugly mood by bluntly telling the Socialist, Communist and Conservative parties to stay away from the funeral even though they had supported the general strike.

ETA terrorists in Bilbao bombed and destroyed a bar while at nearby Algortia a mob set fire during the night to four parked buses.

The Spanish flag flying at half-mast in honour of the doctor was ripped from the flag pole outside the town hall at Portugalete and burnt by demonstrators chanting pro-ETA slogans.

Another mob attacked the Socialist party headquarters in the Bilbao suburb of Erandio, smashing windows and wrecking blinds before being repulsed. Barricades were built across most main roads in the region.

A spokesman for Herri Batasuna said yesterday that a message of solidarity had been received from Sinn Féin, the IRA political organisation, but could not say whether it had sent any representatives to the funeral.

No creditable claim had been made by late yesterday for the killing of Dr Brouard, a child specialist gunned down in his surgery in Bilbao.

But the Right-wing mercenary terror organisation G.A.I., the anti-terrorist Liberation Group, remains the chief suspect after a year of murdering ETA activists across the frontier inside France.

Herri Batasuna is considered the political arm of the guerrilla group ETA (Basque Homeland and Liberty), which has been responsible for most of the more than 400 deaths in separatist violence since 1968.

Socialist Government officials said the assassination of Dr Brouard appeared to be an attempt to block peace moves in the region.

Herri Batasuna said in a statement yesterday: "The ideal for which Santi has given everything, including his life, continues alive in the people... and they will not surrender."

LIFE FOR GUNMEN

Two Arab gunmen were sentenced to life imprisonment in Lod yesterday for killing one person and wounding 38 others during an attack on a busy Jerusalem street. —Reuter.

Gas blast toll expected to total 600

By MARK FAZLOLLAH in Mexico City

TROOPS were posted yesterday to prevent looting in the Mexico City industrial suburb where hundreds of people were killed by a gas-plant explosion on Monday.

The bodies of several hundred victims were taken to a civic centre near the suburb of San Juan Ichnatepec where a series of explosions set fire to a residential area outside the gas-processing plant of the state oil monopoly.

At least 530 bodies had been recovered yesterday, and the Mexican Red Cross said the death toll would undoubtedly reach 600. Many corpses had still to be recovered.

Some 300 bodies have been identified, but others were buried beyond recognition by the intense heat of millions of gallons of liquid gas on fire.

The Government's oil company, Petroleos Mexicanos, denied responsibility for the disaster. It stated that the fire started in a gas-delivery lorry outside the plant and spread to the industrial complex.

BELIZE ELECTIONS

Mr George Price, Prime Minister of the former British colony of Belize has announced he will dissolve Parliament and hold the first elections since the Caribbean State's independence in 1981. Polling will be on Dec. 14.

Hawke in fight to win anti-nuclear party voters

By DENIS WARNER in Melbourne

THE Australian election has been dominated in the past two days by the Hawke government's determined efforts to woo back voters from the single-issue Nuclear Disarmament party.

The party, led by a rock singer, has become more than a nuisance in Senate contests in at least two States.

It wants to ban the mining and export of uranium, and all nuclear ship visits, to remove American installations from Australia and to end the United States alliance.

Its support in New South Wales seems likely to win it a Senate seat and it also has prospects in Victoria.

More importantly, it threatens the unity of the Labour party itself. Although its supporters cross all party lines it has a strong attraction for Labour's Left-wing.

In Brisbane yesterday Mr Hawke, the Prime Minister, said he was prepared to act as a go-between between America and Russia on nuclear arms talks.

He was ready to go on from his planned visit to Washington early next year to Moscow.

'Panic stricken'

Australia voted on Wednesday in the General Assembly in favour of a motion calling on the superpowers to impose an immediate freeze on nuclear weapons. This was the first time it had voted against the United States on the issue.

Mr Michael McKellar, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, described the vote as "panic stricken." He said it could encourage Russia to resist arms reductions proposals to something less than a nuclear freeze.

He accuses Mr Hayden, the Foreign Minister, of having deliberately deceived the House of Representatives in a press conference that Australia would play a mediating role in superpower disarmament talks. That impression had been corrected by the United States.

Speaking at the National Press Club in Canberra, Mr Peacock, the leader of the Opposition, predicted that the Nuclear Disarmament party would cause a split in the Labour group similar to that of 1955 which helped keep Labour out of office for 17 years.

FEARS PERSIST ABOUT MARCOS

By Our Staff Correspondent in Manila

In an attempt to allay public concern that President Marcos of the Philippines, 67, was seriously ill officials showed film clips yesterday of him having a medical check-up.

But rumours persisted that Government claims that President Marcos was suffering from influenza amounted to deception; and Cardinal Jaime Sin, leader of the Roman Catholic Church in the Philippines, told a meeting of advertising executives that he, for one, remained unconvinced by official denials of rumours.

PAY GUIDE PROBLEM FOR LANGE

By JOHN ANDREWS in Auckland

NEW ZEALAND'S Labour Government and the trade unions have fallen out over wage guidelines. Union groups want a 11.2 per cent. figure against the Government's 4.5. The Government fears an increase of double figure proportions will wreck economic recovery plans.

After guideline talks broke down yesterday, Mr Lange, the Prime Minister, spoke of the possibility of re-introducing controls. There is speculation that the Government will force a general wage order.

Mr Lange said the 11.2 figure was irresponsible. The Cabinet would decide soon on what future steps were necessary.

Mr Jim Knox, head of the Federation of Labour, said workers had suffered extreme hardship following a wage freeze imposed two years ago and since the July devaluation. Union leaders meet today to discuss their next move.

Muldoon in contrast

Meanwhile Sir Robert Muldoon, the former Prime Minister, has decided to defy critics and contest the National party's leadership race next month.

Sir Robert, whose party was swept from office in Labour's July landslide, conceded yesterday that he did not yet have enough votes to retain his job as Opposition leader.

He will join four other former Cabinet ministers in vying for the top post when the party's caucus meets on Dec. 21.

The other contenders are Mr Jim McLay, former Deputy Prime Minister and now Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Mr Bill Birch, former Minister of Energy, Mr George Gair, former Minister of Transport, and Mr Jim Bolger, former Minister of Labour.

Since the National government's trouncing there have been widespread calls for within the party for Sir Robert to step down. And he told colleagues in July that he was "unlikely to be a candidate."

Yesterday he claimed that none of the other leadership candidates had proved himself capable of putting Labour out of office.

DODGERS ROUND-UP

Indian Railways caught 105,927 travellers riding trains without valid tickets and 4,449 of them were jailed in a two-week drive against fare dodgers last month, the Indian Government announced yesterday. —Reuter.



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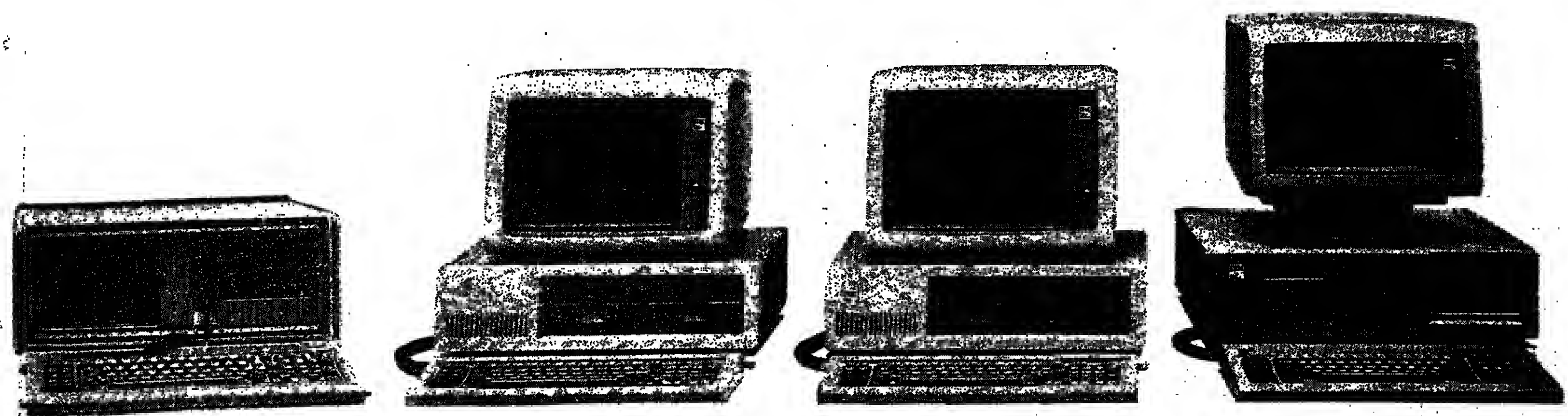
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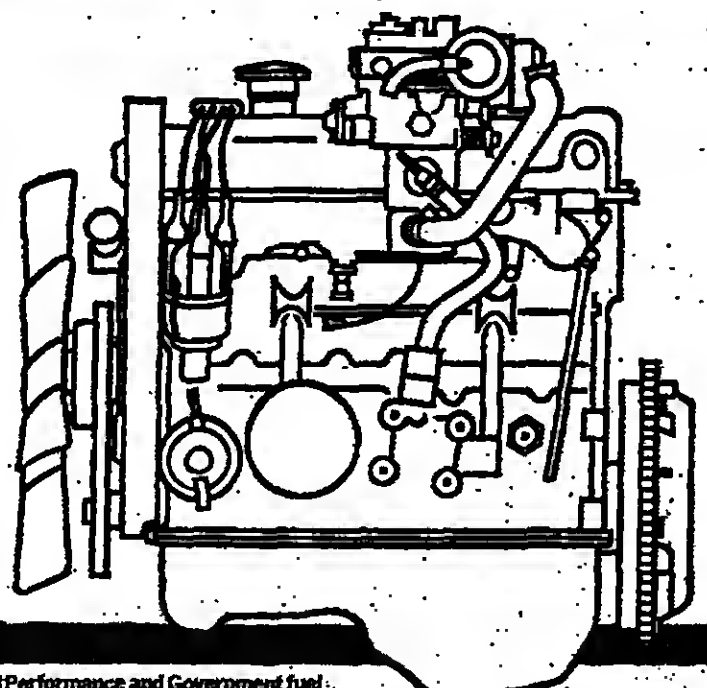
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2.0 5-speed	48.7 (5.8)	38.2 (7.4)	27.4 (10.3)	116
2.0 4-speed Auto	46.3 (6.1)	36.7 (7.7)	26.6 (10.6)	114

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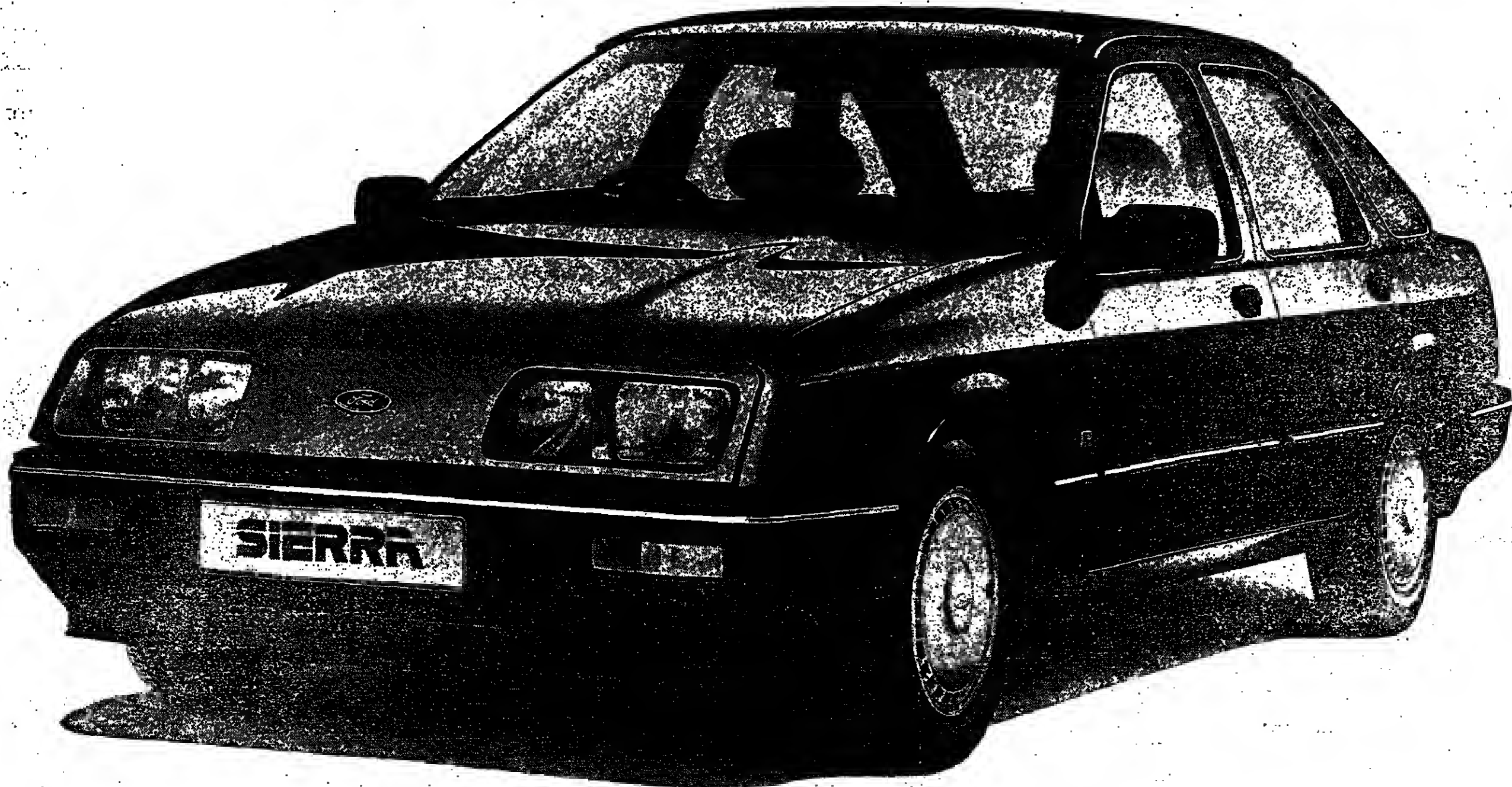
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LONDON-DUBLIN RELATIONS 'FACE BREAKDOWN'

By Our Dublin Correspondent
FEARS of a complete breakdown in Anglo-Irish relations were expressed yesterday by Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Spring, following sharp differences of opinion between Mrs Thatcher and Dr Garrett Fitzgerald.

Mr Spring's warning came as the rift between Dublin and London worsened and Dr Fitzgerald faced calls in Parliament for his resignation.

Dublin ministers have admitted since returning from the Chequers summit that there is serious deadlock between the two countries over future developments in Northern Ireland.

Dr Fitzgerald's position has been seriously undermined since Mrs Thatcher dismissed the solution put forward in the new Ireland Forum report and the Northern Ireland Secretary of State, Mr Douglas Hurd subsequently ruled that Dublin could have no executive role in Ulster.

Discuss options

Both Mr Spring and Mr Peter Barry, foreign minister, claimed yesterday that the IRA would be the only beneficiary from Britain's hardline position on Northern Ireland.

Mr Spring said he was not aware at this stage if Britain was willing to discuss options other than the three put forward by the New Ireland Forum — a united Ireland, confeder-

ation and joint sovereignty over Ulster by Dublin and London.

Despite the disagreements at the Chequers meeting, Mr Spring said the Irish government was determined to keep dialogue open with London. It was their duty to try to retrieve the situation and make progress.

Dr Fitzgerald has been on the defensive since returning from the London summit.

He told a private meeting of his parliamentary party that Mrs Thatcher was gratuitously offensive at her post-summit Press conference on Monday while Mr Barry said that Mrs Thatcher and Mr Hurd had acted disgracefully.

The unease over Dr Fitzgerald's handling of the summit talks spilled over into the Dublin parliament yesterday when Mr Charles Haughey, opposition leader, launched a bitter attack on him, called repeatedly for his resignation and told him he was not fit to continue as prime minister.

Dr Fitzgerald's advisers are believed to have recommended

that after being put on the defensive in the post-summit press conference he would have no option but to take a stronger line on Ulster the next time he has talks with Mrs Thatcher.

Dublin officials were doubtful yesterday that he would have his customary side meeting with Mrs Thatcher when the EEC heads of government meet in Dublin on December 5 and 6 if the British side does not make some effort in the meantime to patch up the differences.



Champion children of 1984—Bradley Rudgeley, 12, who rescued his family from a blazing car, enjoying delightful company at the Savoy Hotel yesterday when he was presented with a bravery award in a contest for children aged between eight and 16 in aid of Dr Barnardo's. With Bradley, who lives at Bishop's Stortford, Herts, are Joanne Urch (left), 23, of Paignton, Devon, who won the dance section, and Emma Briggs, 15, of Hartlebury, Worcs, art winner.

Row ends Speaker's 'honeymoon period'

By NICHOLAS COMFORT Political Staff

THE unruly and vehement scenes in the Commons on Wednesday night when Left-wing Labour MPs prevented Mr Fowler, Social Services Secretary, from making a statement on payments to the families of striking miners came at a time when, in the view of most MPs, the behaviour of the House was improving.

Senior figures on both sides felt that all but the wildest elements had finally taken on board the strong public distaste for "zoo-like" behaviour and exchanges which the radio broadcasting of its proceedings had brought.

And while Mr Dennis Skinner, a handful of other persistent flouters of Parliamentary convention have continued to be ordered from the House at significant intervals, Wednesday night's uproar was very much an exception from the tone of recent business.

However, there have been a number of indications that, if an opportunity arose, there might be some sort of concerted discipline by the Labour Left. And the strongest of these has been that on a series of occasions when Mr Speaker has named 40 for their conduct, Left-wing MPs have divided the House against their suspension and gained up to 80 votes.

Significantly, a prime mover in these rebellions against the discipline of the Labour whips as well as the rulings of the Speaker was Mr Eric Heffer, who played a leading part in Wednesday night's demonstration.

Mr Heffer is seen by some fellow Left-wingers as being ready to play a "rogue elephant" role in the party with his removal from the Shadow Cabinet.

The uproar over social security payments to strikers' families also marked, in the opinion of some, the end of the "honeymoon" period which the new Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill, has enjoyed with the House. When deputy Speaker before rule.

Joseph impatient with Swann committee

By JOHN IZBICKI Education Correspondent

SIR KEITH JOSEPH, Education Secretary, has asked the entire Swann Committee, which has so far spent five years drafting a report on the education of children from ethnic minorities, to see him before their next full meeting.

His invitation comes as two prominent members of the committee have resigned. Clearly, Sir Keith is becoming impatient with the 22-strong committee. He wants to see a completed report soon.

The latest resignations bring the total of those to quit to 10 since the inquiry was set up under the chairmanship of Mr Antony Rampton by Mrs Shirley Williams in 1979, when she was Labour Education Secretary.

Protest at changes

Mrs Ann Dummett, who was a research worker for the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants when appointed to the committee and is now director of the Rumymede Trust, has resigned in protest against the re-writing of a section of the report by Lord Swann, who became chairman in 1981.

Also to resign for the same reason was Fr Michael Hollings, former Roman Catholic chaplain to Oxford University, who has been parish priest at St Mary of the Angels in the heavily West Indian populated Notting Hill area since 1978.

Both he and Mrs Dummett felt that the revised chapter was placing too strong an emphasis on the home background of the pupils as part of the explanation for their underachievement at school.

TEIGNMOUTH PORT

Teignmouth is a private commercial port and not a trust port as inadvertently stated on Tuesday.

SOUTHERN TIMETABLE 'CHAOTIC'

By JOHN PETTY

Transport Correspondent

BITISH RAIL is ready to concede that its economy drive on Southern Region has been over-zealous, leading to chaotic conditions and an unworkable timetable on parts of the system.

It is about to start consultations with local authorities on a new round of timetable changes to be introduced next May to improve conditions.

The main problem is on the congested network serving south-east London and Kent. Two efforts to solve the problems by revising the new timetable introduced last May have failed to end the trouble.

Complaints have continued to flood in, with some commuters saying they have not had a single train run to time since last May.

Under Government pressure, Southern sought to cut costs by taking many trains out of service and working the remainder more intensively. This also enabled them to reduce overtime.

But on its very complicated network, it now means that almost the whole south-east division can be disrupted for hours by a single train running two minutes late into the funnel of Cannon Street, Waterloo East and Charing Cross.

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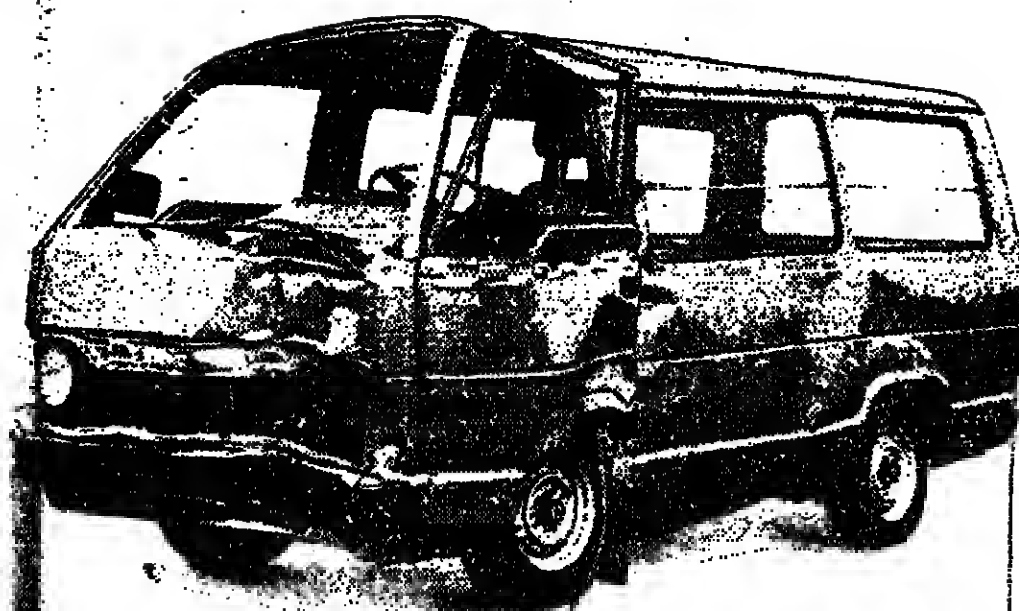
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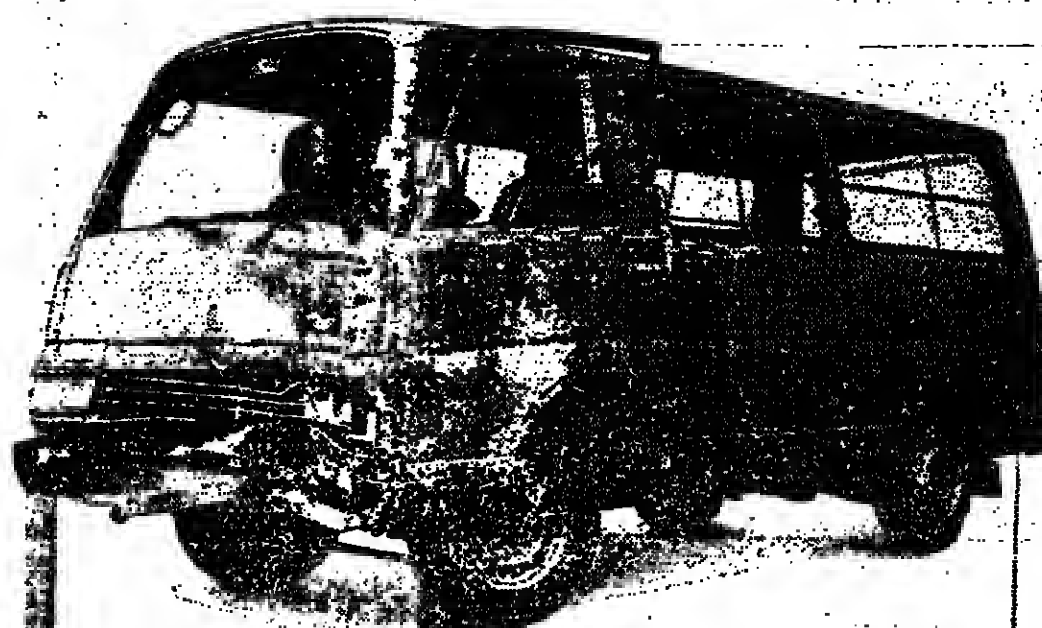
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TOYOTA HIACE

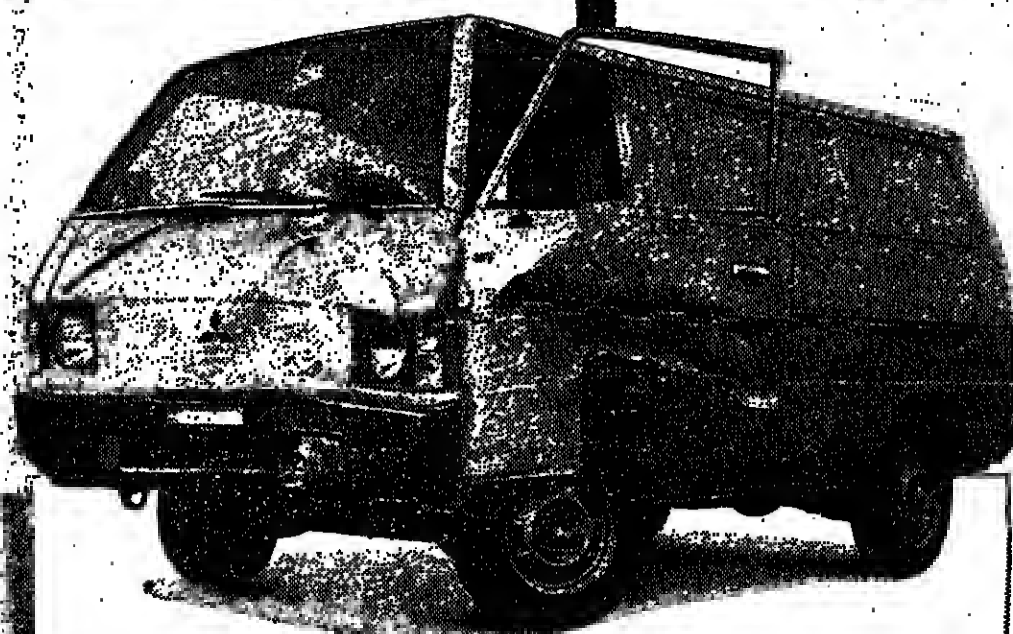
- ☐ Vehicle shortened 45cms.
- ☐ Strong deformation of floor plate on right.
- ☐ Significant displacement of dashboard and steering-system into interior.
- ☐ Steering-wheel forced up.
- ☐ Damage extends to rear frame area. Deformation involves entire left-hand side-panel.
- ☐ Driver's door can only be opened with heavy tools.
- ☐ Knee impact on dashboard. Head impact on steering-wheel.
- ☐ Total write-off.



NISSAN URVAN

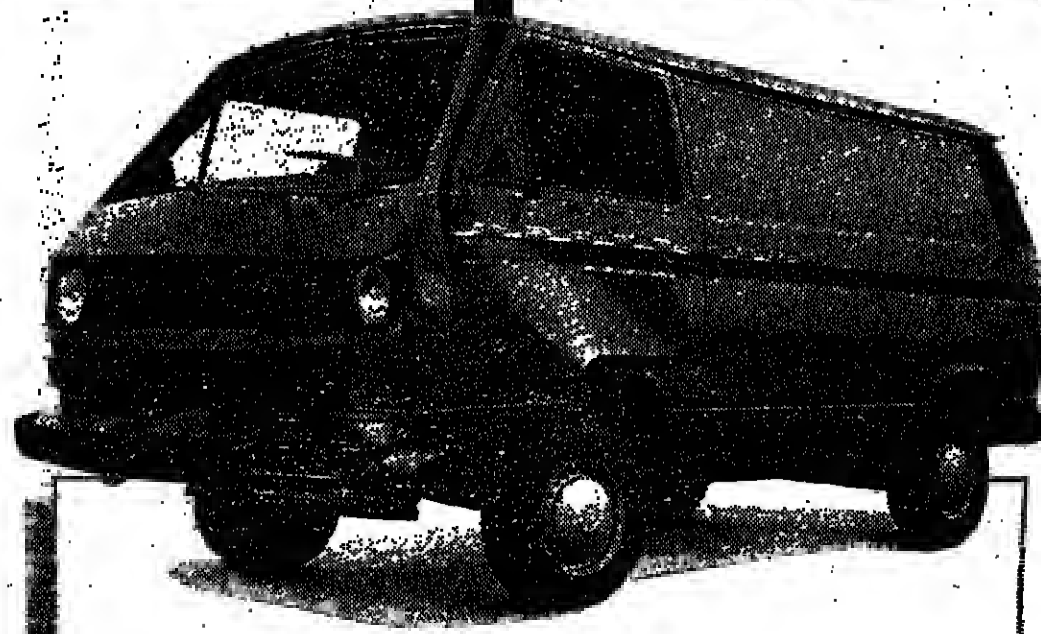
- ☐ Vehicle shortened 52cms.
- ☐ Hardly any footwell remaining.
- ☐ Steering-column forced up.
- ☐ Deformation of side-member, left side-panel and rear right side-panel.
- ☐ Driver's door can only be opened with heavy tools.
- ☐ Hydraulic jacks needed to extricate driver from badly condensed passenger compartment.
- ☐ Left leg completely trapped. Likewise upper torso from impact with steering-wheel. Foot deformed.
- ☐ Total write-off.

As crash tests go, this should pull you up short.



MITSUBISHI L 300

- ☐ Vehicle shortened 38cms.
- ☐ Strong deformation of passenger compartment.
- ☐ Leg-room severely compressed.
- ☐ Significant displacement of dashboard. Steering-wheel forced into interior (almost up to front seat). Steering-wheel itself deformed due to impact of thorax.
- ☐ Deformation of rear third of roof. Left-hand side-member buckled in front of rear-axle.
- ☐ Driver's door can only be opened with heavy tools.
- ☐ Splintered fragments embedded deep in knee joint. Right knee narrowly escaped handbrake lever. Clutch endangered calf.
- ☐ Total write-off.



VOLKSWAGEN TRANSPORTER

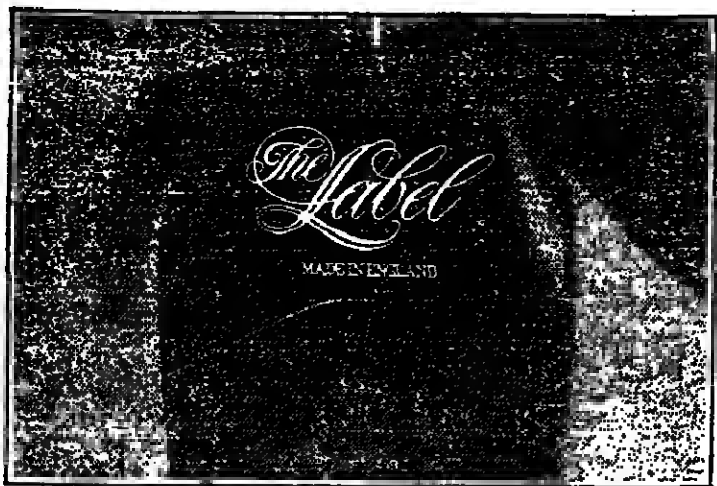
- ☐ Vehicle shortened 36cms.
- ☐ Only slight deformation of rigid steel safety cell.
- ☐ Footwell almost completely intact.
- ☐ Optimum energy-absorption in front part of side-members.
- ☐ Steering-wheel scarcely shifted into interior.
- ☐ Driver's door easily opened by hand.
- ☐ No injury to legs or feet. No specific impact on thorax or strain on head.
- ☐ Passengers could leave vehicle of their own accord.
- ☐ Repairable at reasonable cost.

The above conclusions are the result of a crash test* recently conducted by an independent organisation in Germany (using a dummy, you'll be glad to hear). As their report summed it up: "In contrast to the Japanese models tested, the VW Transporter affords excellent passenger safety equal to that of a car."

Or to put it another way, we start out building a truck. But we end up building a Volkswagen.

Transporter.





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The Label

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HERRING ARE THROWN BACK New Zealand lamb ground down for animal feed

By GODFREY BROWN Agriculture Correspondent

HERRING stocks in British waters have recovered well from the over-fishing that resulted in a six-year North Sea ban to conserve the endangered species.

But the long absence of what used to be one of the nation's favourite fish has brought a steep decline in demand, because people simply forgot how good herring can taste.

Some West Country fishermen are having to let catches of herring go when they find them in their nets, because they say there is no market.

And two-thirds of all the fish that have been withdrawn from the British market so far this year, and processed into animal feed and fertiliser, to try to shore up the quayside prices, were herring, according to figures from the Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce.

This is the arm of the Civil Service that administers the Common Market farm and fisheries support arrangements in Britain.

To try to restore herring to its former place on the nation's tables, the Sea Fish Industry Authority spent £300,000 on a two-month television advertising campaign in the summer.

It claims to have boosted sales by 45 per cent on last year, from 760 to 1,100 tons, while the value went up by 83 per cent.

It is now embarking on a £200,000 newspaper advertising campaign to popularise kipper, and increase their sales.

One of the problems is that the prolonged ban also brought the closure of many shore-based processing facilities.

"The ban ruined the herring fishing," said Mr Reg Matthews, Devco, Teignmouth harbourmaster.

Mr Matthews, who has two boats, the *Girl Rona*, and

Board, of some 12,300 metric tons of fish withdrawn from sale for human consumption in January to August, this year, about 8,150 tons was herring.

During the whole of last year, about 14,000 tons of herring and 18,000 tons of mackerel were withdrawn, out of a total of 44,400 tons.

The West Country herring are acknowledged to be smaller fish than those caught in the North Sea, and are therefore less popular.

But, according to Mr Matthews, the West of England gets the biggest sprats. They are processed locally by marinating in spice and salt, and exported to Sweden.

Rich pickings

Meanwhile, the Scottish mackerel fleet is making rich pickings supplying a huge 50-strong fleet of foreign ships anchored off Ullapool in Loch Broom, and including Eastern bloc vessels.

They are, nick-named *Klondykers* by the fishermen because they are the industry's equivalent of the gold rush.

They buy the mackerel the British boats are allowed to catch.

On one day recently, according to the latest Fishing News, 51 Scottish purse-seine fishing boats supplied nearly 6,300 tons of mackerel to the factory ships.

That is an average of more than 200 tons of fish per catch.

It is expected to ship about 135,000 to 145,000 tons this year, so the amount that is being destroyed by processing into meat amounts to about a quarter of New Zealand's supply to Britain this year.

'Waste of food'

The quayside wholesale price of a New Zealand lamb carcass in Britain is about £20.

Mr John McNab, veterinary counsellor at the New Zealand High Commission, in London, said it was a Meat Board decision, not that of the Government.

He agreed it seemed a waste of food when people were starving in the world.

But the Board have to answer that question—they are the people

By GODFREY BROWN Agriculture Correspondent

THOUSANDS of tons of lamb are being ground down into meat meal for animal feed in New Zealand, in a move by the Meat Board there to reduce the mountain of unsold old-season's lamb which is clogging the cold storage.

About 2½ million lamb carcasses are being sold back to the New Zealand abattoirs for about £1 each. They are processed into meat meal, according to the latest issue of *Big Farms Weekly*.

"The lamb carcasses would fetch at least £5,000 tons, New Zealand is supplied under a 'voluntary restraint' agreement with the Common Market to send 245,000 metric tons of mutton and lamb to the E.C. — effectively Britain — a year."

But to avoid disrupting the meat market in Britain, and sending prices piling, New Zealand usually sends less than its full entitlement.

It is expected to ship about 135,000 to 145,000 tons this year, so the amount that is being destroyed by processing into meat amounts to about a quarter of New Zealand's supply to Britain this year.

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But the Board have to answer that question—they are the people

SAVED BY APPLES

A milk-drying factory in Wellington, Somerset, which was hit by Common Market cuts in milk production, is using its machinery to produce 800,000 gallons of concentrated apple juice for a nearby cider firm which has a glut of apples.

BUMPER CROP

The potato harvest this year was a record 8,083,000 tons, more than one million tons more than last year, the Potato Marketing Board said yesterday.

Weekend Food

Mild weather makes vegetables good buy

By BRENDA PARRY

AS Christmas draws nearer the cost of the shopping basket is steadily beginning to rise. Meat and egg prices have risen, with roasting beef in some areas costing as much as 20p a lb more.

But the good news is that home-grown vegetables are in good supply and reasonably priced at present. The mild spell has made harvesting easy and the selection of crops at the greengrocers is wide.

Sprouts, carrots, parsnips and swedes are all excellent value along with cabbages, cauliflowers and potatoes. A cold snap would quickly per up prices, so make the most of the warm spell.

The rains in Spain have cleared and at last the autumn crop is coming in. Britain in the form of sweet juicy fruits after a spell of rather sour and expensive ones. Salsubas have been a favourite with the British for a number of years and we now eat more per capita outside Spain than any other West European country. They are available this weekend for 25-35p lb.

The worst thing about shopping at this time of year is the great crush as everyone hunts for Christmas presents. It can prove very frustrating trying to push your way through the crowds, especially on a Saturday.

Most shopkeepers would be delighted to see you during the early part of the week. With confectionery, preserves, and preserves, tea and coffee all fairly cheap at present, they make ideal Christmas gifts for all members of the family.

Best buys

This week's best buys: 'Bakers' Butchers: Dry frozen turkeys, 69p lb; Danish gammon, £1.99 lb; rump steak, £2.79 lb; 10 party pack pies, £1.59.

Sainsbury's: Frozen turkey, 52p lb; four week old butter, 39p; 500g icing sugar, 29p; Kellogg's crunchy nut cornflakes, 69p; 1 lb own brand apricot jam, 41p.

Morrisons: Four medium-size kiwi fruit, 99p; Five Cyprus grapefruit, 55p; 1 lb in Hafnia hazelnut, 19p; 16-pack KP crisps, £1.45.

Tesco: 2 litre bottle own brand lemonade, 47p; 411g own brand luxury mince meat, 67p; 44 Kraft sausage rolls, £1.39; loose donkey Gloucester cheese, £1.12 lb; 13oz Bird's Eye purest poultry, 39p; 10oz own brand brandy, 74p; Claymore whisky, £9.99 bottle; own brand celeriac, £1.99.

Marks and Spencer: Four Cornish pasties, 39p; avocados, 29p each; turkey steaks, £1.99 lb; various cherries, £2.69 bottle.

Asda: 24lb jar Quality Street family pack Danish smoked middle bacon, 99p lb.

Debenhams: Butcher's: Special offers on New Zealand lamb, varying according to area.

Barrister Bone Sausages: Prime collar and foreback bacon (unsmoked) 52p lb; (smoked) 99p lb; family pack sausages, 58p lb; Edam cheese, £1.05 lb; Gouda, £1.15; pure fruit juices, 64p litre.

The cost of this weekend's basic shopping basket of 25 items:

London £26.38; +72
Bournemouth £26.23; +74
Manchester £26.21; +74
Birmingham £26.21; +74
Leeds £26.21; +74
Ipswich £26.21; +74
Belfast £26.21; +74
Glasgow £26.21; +74
Liverpool £26.21; +74
Newcastle £26.21; +74
Cardiff £26.21; +74

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Sealink is to cut the price of duty-free spirits on routes to Holyhead and Fishguard to Ireland. Prices per litre for many brands of Scotch Whisky will drop from 55-75 to 45-55. The cheapest gin will go down from 55-75 to 45-55. Vodka from 55-75 to 45-55. Bacardi rum from 55-75 to 45-55 starting immediately.

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Hi-Fi includes DOLBY stereo cassette deck with Metal Chrome tape selector. High-quality built-in record deck. Five-channel graphic equaliser. LVMWFM stereo radio. 2-way 4-speaker system. Model: System 95. Dixons List Price £240.99

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دكان من الذهب

THIS AD REPRESENTS THE VIEWS OF LONDONERS.

IT'S GOING IN THE TIMES, THE GUARDIAN, THE DAILY TELEGRAPH AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S BIN.

It's unlikely that the Prime Minister will be very interested in reading this.

Because right from the start the Government hasn't been interested in any objections to their proposals to abolish the GLC. Even from their own MP's.

As far as they're concerned, you can either like it or lump it.

Which is why they went ahead and published the Abolition Bill yesterday.

Even though they now know that over 74%* of Londoners are opposed to it.

Not all of these Londoners favour the current administration at County Hall either.

But it's the one that Londoners voted for at the last GLC elections. And the one that Londoners could have just as easily voted out at the next elections.

That is, had the Government not scrapped them.

Quite simply, the people of London want the right to decide for themselves who runs their city.

It's a right they deserve. One which they've had for almost a hundred years and one which people have in every other capital city in the western world.

The Government has attempted to excuse itself by talking about devolution.

That is, giving more power to the Borough Councils.

But it's pure deceit.

The fact of the matter is, in terms of expenditure over two thirds of the GLC's responsibilities won't go to the Borough Councils at all.

They'll go to Whitehall quangos and joint boards which are not directly elected.

A system of administration that isn't just undemocratic but one which politicians on both sides predict will result in organisational chaos.

In the first year alone, it will cost London ratepayers an extra £65 million.

It's a blatant misuse of central Government power which we will continue to campaign against on behalf of Londoners.

The Houses of Parliament have yet to approve the Bill before it becomes law.

The Government has turned its back on the people of London.

We appeal to the House of Commons and the House of Lords not to.

SAY NO TO NO SAY.

Insist on...
HIGH & DRY
Really Dry Gin

Lloyds Bank Interest Rates
Lloyds Bank Plc has reduced its Base Rate from 10% to 9.5% p.a. with effect from Friday 23rd November, 1984.
Other rates of interest are reduced as follows:
7-day notice Deposit Accounts and Savings Bank Accounts - from 6.75% to 6.25% p.a.
The change in Base Rate and Deposit Account interest will also be applied from the same date by the United Kingdom branches of Lloyds Bank International Limited, The National Bank of New Zealand Limited.
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£1m A YEAR SAVINGS, BUT ABOLITION WILL CUT 7,000 COUNCIL JOBS

By JOHN CRIGSBY Local Government Correspondent

MORE than 7,000 local government jobs would go as a result of the abolition of the Greater London Council and the six Metropolitan County Councils, the Government said yesterday when it published its Local Government Bill.

It estimates that a total of £1 million a year will be saved by the "rationalisation" alone. The G.L.C. will account for about half the saving.

The Government estimates that there will be an extra 900 posts in public sector bodies which will take over the functions of the doomed councils in April 1986.

Redundancy payments in the first year are expected to amount to about £40 million but the public expenditure position for local councils will be reduced by £25 million in 1986-87.

The Government intends to make savings because the duplication between two tiers of local government would be removed and the transfer of services to the boroughs would lead to greater efficiency and economy.

Savings on grants
With the councils' abolition, the discretion for high spending on such items as transport subsidy, grants to ethnic organisations, and women's groups would disappear saving up to £50 million.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Local Government Minister, said yesterday that he was determined that the councils would be abolished on March 31, 1986.

"The task they now perform will be undertaken in future by the 32 London Borough Councils and the Metropolitan District Councils, individually or jointly and in a small number of cases by other bodies where this is more appropriate."

The six metropolitan county councils are West Midlands, Tyne and Wear, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire.

Mr Baker, who will have the responsibility for piloting the Bill through the Commons said there would be a number of joint boards, or quangos.

In London, transport has already been transferred to London Regional Transport. The London fire service will be run by a body composed of one councillor from each London Council and a member of the City of London Common Council.

The Government also intends to set up residuary bodies to be responsible for the councils' debt and staff superannuation. A staff Commission has been established to protect the interests of staff in the G.L.C. and metropolitan counties.

metropolitan county areas because, unlike the G.L.C. they do not own Green Belt land. A wide variety of other jobs will go to the London boroughs and the metropolitan districts. These include the following jobs now done wholly or partly by the G.L.C. and the counties: Responsibility for coroners, emergencies, local valuation panels, recreation, funding and support for the probation service, registration of companies, rights of way, safety of sports grounds, assistance to industry, safety of reservoirs and tourism.

In London, boroughs will take responsibility for building control, entertainment licensing, and funding and support for magistrates courts in outer London. In the metropolitan counties, the districts will take over the responsibility for the Peak District National Park, the rent officer service, school crossing patrols and the sea fisheries committee; gypsies, parks and sport.

Transfer of jobs
The Government says that many operational staff can expect to be transferred in groups, under the "ring fencing" arrangements to their new employer. Group transfer might also be appropriate for some specialist staff, for example those dealing with superannuation.

But staff will not, as a matter of course, be offered jobs with the successor bodies. A staff commission will ensure that G.L.C. and metropolitan county employees have a proper opportunity to obtain posts, but the boroughs and districts will not be forced to take on staff they do not need.

The Government proposes that staff transferred to the joint boards will go on their existing salaries and conditions. But those who are recruited cannot be guaranteed existing terms and conditions.

The Government accepts that there may be compulsory redundancies, but says this will be only a small proportion of the 20,000 staff now employed by the G.L.C. and the 32,000 by the metropolitan counties.

Where staff are made redundant, the Government proposes that the general day-to-day terms currently in use in local government should apply. But they are considering some improvements for certain age groups.

Critical reaction
Reaction from the councils affected—all Labour controlled—and the Labour front bench was deeply critical. Dr John Cunningham, the Labour environmental spokesman, said that abolition could only yield the savings claimed if services and jobs were "slashed" by the successor boards and quangos.

Dr Cunningham alleged that at least two-thirds of the spending of the doomed councils would be vested in joint boards or quangos.

"Any claim that these boards will be accountable to their constituent bodies is laughable. Their manpower budgets and expenditure will be under the direct control of the Environment Secretary."

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, leader of the G.L.C. said: "It is disaster day for London. Abolition is not cheap, not democratic and not needed. A century of local government in London is being destroyed to satisfy the Prime Minister's personal vendetta against the G.L.C."

Mrs Margaret Hodge, chairman of the Labour-controlled Association of London Authorities, said that their members would not be able to cope with the transfer of powers. "We will not step in and take over from the G.L.C."

Mr John Gurnell, leader of West Yorkshire County Council, who has led the campaign for the metropolitan counties, said that they were consoled by the poor quality of the Bill. "Where is the reasoned case for abolition? Where is the simpler system we were promised?" he asked.

Mr Alan Greenshield, leader of the Tory Opposition on the G.L.C. welcomed the fact that the "monolith" was being scrapped. In setting up the London planning commission, the government had recognised that there must be a London-wide body but it did not go far enough.

"It must be wrong that the greatest capital city in the world is left without a London-wide heart." He said that a large and growing number of Tory M.P.s felt the same.



Sebastian Coe sitting in front of a portrait of himself yesterday at the National Portrait Gallery where an exhibition of contemporary portraits opens today. The artist Martin Rose is behind the 1500 metres Olympic champion, who said of the painting: "It is very representative of me at various levels. I like it very much."

Heseltine wants to cut information jobs

By Maj. Gen. Edward Fursdon Defence Correspondent

THE Defence Secretary, Mr Heseltine, has called for a report by Dec. 31 showing how the Defence Ministry's worldwide public relations staff of 320 civilians and Servicemen can be cut to 200.

At present the Ministry spends £4½ million a year on public relations. Mr Heseltine believes the department is too large and costly for its peacetime role.

Its job is to provide a night and day information service, every day of the year, for the Press and broadcasters. The department operates not only in the Ministry, but wherever British forces are stationed, and they help to keep taxpayers informed about how defence funds are spent.

Not enough time
Mr Heseltine's call for a new report—there have been nearly a dozen on the public relations department since 1964—has caused consternation in the Ministry, not least over its deadline which leaves little time available for constructive consultation.

Of the present public relations staff only 67 belong to the uniformed Services, with the Royal Navy having 19, the Army 45 and the RAF three. Some combine their PR responsibilities with other duties. The official view is that Mr Heseltine will not take decisions on the new report until after he has seen and considered the wide-ranging final report on the Defence Ministry's public relations carried out by University College, Cardiff.

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HEATH HEADS BACKBENCH ATTACK OVER HOWE'S CUTBACKS

By PETER PRYKE and ANTHONY LOOCH

CUTS in the spending of the B B C's external services and of the British Council, announced by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, in the Commons last night, were condemned by Mr Heath as being against the national interest.

Conservative rebels, who were also unhappy about the Foreign Secretary's failure to give assurances that foreign aid would be maintained at the same level next year, cheered Mr Heath as he criticised Sir Geoffrey's speech.

Pointing out that the Public Borrowing Requirement had risen by £1.1 billion more this year than anticipated, the former Prime Minister said: "Here we are dealing with things of national importance, saving a million here and £750,000 there."

"It is entirely out of proportion," he added, "to cut the BBC and the British Council from both sides of the House."

Sir GEOFFREY had told MPs that he was looking for savings of £1.2 million in the spending of the British Council, and about £1 million from the BBC external services.

He won his only cheer from his own supporters when he announced that Britain was to give notice of withdrawal from Unesco by the end of next year, with the provision that the decision would be reconsidered if the organisation reformed itself meanwhile.

Service charges
In addition to the cuts, and the closing of ten small missions abroad, Sir Geoffrey announced that the Foreign Office was to obtain about £4 million from charges for some of its services.

There was to be a new £10 fee for entry certificates for Commonwealth citizens and the charge for entry clearance for foreign nationals coming to the United Kingdom was to be increased from £5 to £10.

On foreign aid, Sir Geoffrey pointed out that over the next three years expenditure was expected to increase faster than British inflation.

But his critics noted that he did not give an assurance that foreign aid would not be cut next year.

Mr HEATH criticised Sir Geoffrey for not securing more money for Foreign Office second-hand goods, Mr Lawson, and about the "entomology" of his

had in take account of the fact that Government spending was planned in terms of the cash cost of each programme, and he had to take into account factors such as movement of exchange rates.

He stressed the Government's commitment in maintaining the quality of service provided by Britain's overseas diplomatic missions, but said cuts had been rising due to the need to provide increased security.

"I have decided it would be right in close about ten small posts—almost all of them are subordinate posts."

Progress on reform
Sir Geoffrey criticised Unesco for not giving "value for money," but acknowledged that some progress had been made on reform.

"But we cannot at this stage be confident that adequate reform will necessarily be achieved by the end of 1985 and it would be wrong not to safeguard our position."

The British Council faced particular difficulties in some countries from inflation, and he was looking for £1.2 million in savings.

Dr MARK HUGHES (Lib., Durham), intervening, said: "As vice-chairman of the British Council I will consider my position as to whether we will continue bi-partisan vice-chairmanship of that authority."

Sir GEOFFREY said it would not be right for the Government to meet the full amount of the increase in the cost of the BBC external services, and he was looking for savings of about one per cent, in their total spending.

There would still be increased Government provision of about £50,000 and the £100 million capital programme to improve audibility would be maintained.

Sir Geoffrey said provision for the overseas aid programme remained unchanged at £1,150 million.

Mr ROY JENKINS (Soc. Dem., Hillhead) said he did not believe, in general, that there was any extravagance in Britain's diplomatic representation abroad.

"We spend on Fortresses Falklands £500 million and a billion pounds a year. We spend on our defence budget, which on the whole I am in favour of, £17 billion a year. We are proposing to spend on Trident over a five-year period, between £10 billion and £12 billion."

"I hope these defence expenditures are primarily to increase our influence in the world, and not to blow it up. To spend these vast sums and then niggle about a few million for making Britain's voice heard seems to show a total lack of proportion."

Must do more
Mr EDWARD DU CANN (C., Taunton) said that as far as overseas aid was concerned, there was no moral dilemma for Britain. There is only one moral imperative. We do too little for our fellow man, and it is our duty to do all we can.

"I hope we would save clearly to our friends in government during this debate that at this moment we are doing less than we might, and we must do more."

Sir ANTHONY KERSHAW (C., Stroud), chairman of the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee, said he was also vice-chairman of the British Council.

He deplored the three per cent. cut in the Council's activities.



Mr HEATH: Entirely out of proportion.



Mr DU CANN: Doing less than he might.

Speaker warns Labour MPs about behaviour

By WILLIAM WEEKES Parliamentary Staff

LABOUR MPs who brought the Commons to a halt amid uproar on Wednesday night were warned by the SPEAKER, Mr Weatherill, yesterday that their behaviour undermined the authority of Parliament.

His words were directed at about 30 backbenchers who gathered defiantly in front of the table and shouted furiously at Ministers.

The row was over the payment of social security benefits to the families of striking miners.

As a result of the uproar, Mr Fowler, Social Services Secretary, was stopped from making a statement which Labour MPs had specifically requested.

Opposition charges that the £1 increase to £16 in weekly deductions from Supplementary Benefit for strikers' families was a "grossly unfair" and "unjustified" increase.

Mr THATCHER when she was repeatedly challenged during Question Time yesterday.

"Every single thing you say should turn against the NUM for their callousness in not looking after their members."

Mr HATTERSLEY, deputising for Mr Kinnock, who is in Moscow, taunted Mrs Thatcher with her own words last week about the Opposition leader lacking the guts to face striking miners and condemn violence on the picket lines.

Angered because Mr Fowler had announced the £1 increase in a written answer instead of verbally to MPs, Mr Hattersley challenged: "Why did you not have the guts to come down and explain it yourself?"

Deductions are made from the payment of benefits because unions are deemed to provide strike pay, though the NUM does not. Labour has decided to use one of the opposition days to debate the Government's action on Monday.

Disorderly conduct
Mr WEATHERILL, who adjourned the House on Wednesday after having suspended it for 10 minutes, said: "For centuries this House has seen the strongest expression of conflicting opinion and policy and over the centuries this

"Do you still not realise that such callousness confirms our long-held view that you are less concerned with the waste and suffering of the miners' dispute than the hope of securing a cheap political victory?"

"Why do you consistently pretend this is necessary under the Act when the Act gives you powers to change the regulations?"

One of the noisiest moments in a rowdy 15 minutes came as Dr OWEN, leader of the S D P, tried to put a question to the Prime Minister. Labour MPs kept up a barrage of shouting, almost drowning him out.

After the Speaker had restored order, Dr Owen said: "I will stand here until hell freezes over."

Dr Owen, when he could make himself heard, said the Government would have shown more sensitivity and been fairer to the families of striking miners if the deduction had only been increased from £15 to £16-50.

Specific request
Mrs THATCHER said Mr Fowler had been stopped from explaining the change "by the rowdiest scenes this House has ever seen perpetrated."

The Government had replied to a specific request from the Opposition for a statement and was then prevented "almost physically," I understand "from making that statement."

I hope the Labour Front Bench will dissociate themselves from the disgraceful scenes last night."

The Prime Minister said that if the NUM met its obligations the striking miners would get the full benefit of the social security up-rating.

The allowance and vindictiveness was from those in the NUM who were prepared to use money for mob violence rather than strike pay.

Mrs Thatcher told the House: "With regard to the amount that will be paid to strikers' families, even if the NUM does not pay them their £16 some 85 per cent. of miners' families who are receiving Supplementary Benefit will have a net cash increase in their benefit."

"About 6,000 will have no change and only about 100 people are likely to receive less benefit."

'Real' value
The Prime Minister emphasised that the formula used to make the change was that used each year since 1980 under the Social Security Act.

Mr HATTERSLEY said Mr Fowler had admitted on radio that the change would further reduce the real value of social security payments to the families of striking miners.

"What possible justification can there be for this gratuitously vindictive act?"

Ban urged on aerial spraying

By WALTER ABURN
Parliamentary Staff

ALLIANCE peers would be happy to consider a complete prohibition on the aerial spraying of pesticides.

Lord WALSTON (Soc Dem) yesterday in the Lords when peers gave a second reading to the Government Food and Environment Protection Bill.

He voiced the view that with the advent of new spraying equipment it was possible to concentrate spray on the farm area where it is needed with an aerial spraying at all.

This would prevent accidents where alloments and gardens and sometimes people were sprayed with pesticides and stop indiscriminate spraying which destroyed flies, butterflies and birds sheltering in hedgerows.

But farmers should retain their right to buy pesticides and fertilizers abroad, where they were cheaper, with no impediment.

Lord BELSTEAD, Agriculture Minister in the Lords, said the Bill's three parts dealt with power to take emergency precautionary action to stop the human consumption of contaminated food.

There were also powers never deposits made at sea, and others to control the supply and use of pesticides.

It would be impossible, though, for any government to eliminate every source of risk in our lives. We had to focus on risks as they were clearly identified.

The three priorities were to safeguard food supplies, to protect the marine environment and to establish a new statutory process for the approval and use of pesticides. The Bill was not designed to restrain trade.

Labour peers supported the general principle that spraying had to be controlled in every way.

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The appointee will report to the Divisional Director, will have the ability to liaise with all levels of management and will be expected to make a positive contribution to the Company's commercial approach in contract matters.

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This could be a very satisfying, highly remunerative situation for an ambitious salesperson.

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If you live in one of the above areas, possess at least 2 years sales experience, the particular business sector is less important than the ability to be able to demonstrate technical equipment and generate new business.

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The MRT Corporation is a Statutory Board commissioned to build, maintain and operate the mass transit railway system in Singapore. The MRT, a fast, efficient urban railway system covering 67 km, will be built with the help of consultants and contractors at an estimated cost of \$85000 million over a period of 10 years. Construction commenced in 1983 and the first trains will be coming into service in 1988. Applications are now invited for the following position.

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Salary Range: S\$98,150 - S\$113,750 pa

Functions: Reporting to the Project Director, the successful candidate will be responsible for the construction programming and progress and interface monitoring of phases currently under design or construction. He will also be responsible for detailed planning and route projection of future committed phases of the MRT system.

Requirements: A degree from an acceptable institution with at least 10 to 15 years relevant experience at a senior level. Candidates will be required to demonstrate:

- extensive recent experience in the planning and programming of large multi-disciplined projects.
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In addition to salary quoted above the remuneration package also includes:

- 25% central provident fund contribution by the Corporation subject to a maximum of S\$1,750 per month (tax free) + medical benefits for self and family + low interest loan for purchase of car + housing allowance + children's education allowance + vacation leave + beginning and end of contract air passages and annual home leave passages.

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MASS RAPID TRANSIT CORPORATION

Interested applicants should write in confidence giving full personal particulars, employment history and contact telephone number to: The Personnel & Administration Manager, Mass Rapid Transit Corporation, 27A, Adelphi Road, The Fish House, 6th Floor, Singapore, 06974.

Closing Date: 1st December 1984.
Current exchange rate: S\$1 = £2.75.
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We are an expanding successful High Street retailer selling a very large range of fancy goods and gifts. Essential experience: marketing and control of transport operations. Experience of franchising would also be useful. Applications, with CV, in confidence to: Tony Eason, Managing Director, Bridgegate Projects Ltd, Bridgegate, Chester, CH1 1RP.

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FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS
APPEAR TODAY
ON PAGE 32

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The successful candidates can expect competitive five-figure starting salaries, quality car, non-contributory pension scheme, relocation expenses to the northern Home Counties where appropriate and the opportunity to be involved in some highly challenging and satisfying work.

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David Green on (0632) 812245, Benson's Recruitment, 89 Osborne Road, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2AN so that an early interview can be arranged.

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THE ARTS

FILMS / Slaughter unexplained

The Killing Fields (15)
Warner West End
Maria's Lovers (15)
Classic, Haymarket
A Private Passion (15)
Odeon, Haymarket (Nov. 30)
Annie's Coming Out (PG)
Classic, Celsa

The Glitter Dome (18)
A.B.C. Shaftesbury Ave.
A Christmas Story (PG) Plaza
NOTORIOUSLY, a big budget is no guarantee of a fine film, rather the contrary. I would say. While there are many effective scenes in the David Puttnam production, *The Killing Fields*, made for \$15 million I found it unsatisfactory as a whole.

The basis is factual — on the friendship between the New York Times special correspondent, Sydney Schanberg, and his assistant, Phyllis, and their experiences when reporting the war, or perhaps I should say wars, in Cambodia in 1975, where, in effect, a postscript conflict of Vietnam.

Despite some small reporting of these wars at the time, Cambodia rarely qualifies as "a far-off country of which we know little," and it seems one of the film's objectives that, even this late date, 10 years after we should know more of its past.

As, while locations in that part of the world bring authenticity, and such events as the accidental bombing of the town of Neak Luong and later taking the rebels of the capital of Phnom Penh make harrowing scenes as caught by the director, Roland Joffe, with much respect, some of the facts important to our understanding of what we see find no place in the narrative.

That the Vietnam had been occupying areas of Cambodia fronting on South Vietnam with the intention of out-flanking the Americans I heard no mention at all. So the American bombing of these enemy enclaves, whether legal or not, is made to seem gratuitously destructive, though strategically desirable against a threat to the U.S. withdrawal and South Vietnamese independence.

So, from the very start when

our two correspondents go to Phnom Penh to report the devastation wrought by an American bomber's error, the film's attitude seems somewhat sourly anti-American, but so much by intention, perhaps, as omission, there being no word, for instance, about the Communists as the enemy or of the Soviets behind them.

Now this has to be needed a map and a summary of background facts to enable us to appreciate the foreground it so colourfully presents, facts which the author, Bruce Robinson, might well have worked into the narrative.

As it is, there is chiefly Schanberg's devotion to duty and integrity to be admired, and a strong friendship to be inferred with some difficulty through Phyllis's inscrutable Oriental expression.

When, in 1975, things become too hot in the capital, Schanberg arranges the evacuation to America of Phyllis's wife and children; only when, later, the last refugees in the French boat are left behind, to start, in effect, another film altogether showing his life under the Khmer Rouge.

How Schanberg's reporting is rewarded by a Pulitzer Prize back home and how his remorse at leaving Phyllis is assuaged when, after revealing adventures, Phyllis eventually turns up in Thailand, make an ending nothing but the film suggested better the depth of feeling between the two men, who are impersonated by Sam Waterston and Dr Haing S. Ngor.

AS THE first Soviet director to make a film in Hollywood, Andrei Konchalovsky has obviously wanted to break ground new to his, to do, in fact, something he could not do at home.

So in *Maria's Lovers* he has made a film with scenes so explicit it could not be shown in the U.S.S.R., but artistically of a superior kind, of course, as might be expected of one of Russia's leading directors.

Mixing sex and art has evidently presented difficulties, and the film that results, which may be described as a sex tract-comedy with sentimental and romantic aspects, is a comedy.

promise unlikely to be satisfactory, especially when a realistic style is imposed.

The G.I. who in 1946 returns to his little home town in Pennsylvania seems lucky to marry the lovely girl he left behind. Only she has been in his imagination too long, and actually shows him to be impotent.

How this awkward situation is eventually resolved, with the wife losing her virginity to another man, which curiously restores her husband to virility, is a rather ridiculous story, confirming Stendhal's dictum that impotence is a subject only for comedy.

That this manages to keep fairly serious and also romantic is much due to the acting of John Savage and Nastassja Kinski against a typical American small-town background of the period handled by the Russian director with great skill and evident affection.

WITH such a humourist as Alan Bennett writing the script and such comedians as Michael Palin and Maggie Smith heading the cast, something funny was expected of *A Private Passion*, a first feature from Malcolm Mowbray, and, by good luck, something absolutely side-splitting is the result.

Mr Bennett has had the happy idea of finding his fun in the ratting days of post-war Britain, in 1947 to be precise, in a north country town, and despatching by a little clique of professional men of base instincts, led by the doctor (Dinholm Elliott).

Two of the town's three butchers have already been closed down for infirmities of a superior kind, but the local farm which is being illegally fed up for a great dinner to be given to local big-wigs on the day of the royal wedding.

How Mr Palin, as a meek chirpist much put down by this and also by his wife (Miss Smith) who is determined to ascend socially, gets to hear of this illegal pig and actually kidnaps it makes a wonderfully funny, slightly satirical comedy of provincial manners of the period; and what happens then had the audience laughing as I have never before heard in the cinema.

What more can I say, beyond commending all concerned on



Dr Haing S. Ngor and Sam Waterston in "The Killing Fields."

a comedy as ripe, rude and robust as any I can remember.

THE Australian Angela Punch McGregor, who was my actress of the year for her performance in "We of the Never Never" in 1983, provides another very powerful impersonation in *Annie's Coming Out* as an assistant psychiatrist at an institution for profoundly retarded children.

The story of how this psychiatrist, against opposition from the institution's governors, gives intellectual life to some children regarded as vegetables, in particular one little girl named Annie, is said to be true; and certainly the documentary-like style adopted by the director, Gil Brealey, supports this assertion.

A very moving film, then, with the psychiatrist bravely fighting her professional superiors on a matter of principle and humanity which she embraces almost obsessively. The final law case which goes in her favour presumably made legal history.

THE TITLE of Stuart Margolin's *The Glitter Dome* refers to a bar where Hollywood police meet off-duty. It is here that detective Al (James Garner) and his partner, Marty (John Lithgow) are called out

to solve the murder of an important producer, shot in a Hollywood.

A more complicated case, with a longer chain of curious people involved, is hard to follow, though the effort is not entirely unrewarding.

COMING from Bob Clark, director of the violent, unpleasant, "Porky's," *A Christmas Tale* is a surprise. Being a tender, sentimental account of an eight-year-old boy's little adventures with his small-town family around 1940, as recalled 40 years later — by a "voice over," it is naturally enough. The origin is a story by the well known humorist Jean Shepherd, though the comedy, like the material, is very slight, and nostalgia is relied on almost to excess.

Patrick Gibbs

THEATRE / Phedra

Defiantly trusting Racine

THE REVIVAL of the Old Vic of Racine's "Phedra" had hardly begun before I was struck by the courage of what was evidently going to be a mighty gesture of faith in the tempestuous but ice-cool classic of 17th century drama.

Its people, alive with suppressed and destructive emotions, speak in neat decorous rhyme — difficult for our stage, then the plot is classical Greek, the setting Louis XIV baroque. At the National nine years ago, they did not dare all this.

The direction and designs of Philip Frowse funk nothing. He uses a new translation by Robert David Macdonald in rhymed couplets — sinewy faithful. The costumes approximate sumptuously to the period. And the acting has an extravagance which scared some of the audience into nervous laughter.

But I found Glenda Jackson

wonderfully impressive as Phedra, torn between uncontrolled desire for her stepson and the endeavour to abide by moral imperatives. Beautiful at first, she ends in squalid disgust, victim of the goddess none can cheat of her prey. "Malgré soi perdue, incestueuse," as Boileau put it.

Confessing to her beloved, she cries in despair: "You could have seen — if you had ever looked at me!" The actress finds a voice to tear herself out of herself as jagged and hoarse as her torment. She moves to a scratching bitterness to a totally unlooked-for tenderness when she speaks of the love her man has shared with another woman.

Television review—P20

She gets the support she deserves from Tim Woodward (Hippolytus) who turns a prig into a noble innocent. Gerard Murphy is the fiercely angry, later bewildered husband while Georgina Hale brings a virginal intensity to the rigid formalities of the hero's beloved.

The production maintains its boldness throughout. Thunder eventually drowns the sound of the sea and cries of gulls, and at the grand climax masonry crashes down and the fearful end of the story is told by Robert Edlison in a voice which does honour to the English stage.

This defiant revival, scorning half-measures at the risk of melodrama, treats Racine at last as a dramatist not to trust, but in trust.

John Barber

DANCE / Janet Smith and Company

JANET SMITH'S new work, "Signs of Another Sun," performed by her with her company at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford, on Wednesday night, shows a good day's work in strange and fascinating qualities as choreographer and dancer.

The piece originated in the Indonesian cloths brought back from the company's tour of the Far East last March; the beautifully coloured and exotically designed cloths were imaginatively used by Janet Smith as elements in a suite of dances, each with a delicate Far Eastern flavour and each incorporating the length of cloth in a different way.

The structure evolved by Janet Smith — ranging from the end of night through sunrise to planning, courtship and other scenes to the eventual re-

turn of night — gave her exactly the support she needed to create poetic patterns suited to her mysterious and haunting personality.

One of the problems she has always had to face is that she stands out so boldly in the magic she radiates through her mysteriously elegant movements and her beautiful face.

In her new piece she solves this problem very well: there is one dance, for example, "Sea Spirit," which begins with men in silence lashing the stage with lengths of cloth and then she appears in a very strange solo, "Fire," in which she suggests gentle, curving flames as she manipulates her length of cloth.

Christopher Benstead's music,

showing clear influences from the Gamelan music of Indonesia, gives the choreographer just the support that she needs.

Robert North's new piece, "Miniatures," based on a number of short pieces by Stravinsky, includes one lovely group dance for four female artists, in which he achieves an excellent visual counterpoint well matched to the music. He also gives his wife, Janet Smith, an amusing solo as a kind of circus rhapsodist, but other sections of the piece are much less well suited to the music, notably one in which rather obvious clowning is set against very harsh, satirical music by Stravinsky.

Fernau Hall

Some of these notices appeared in later editions yesterday.

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MUSIC / Risurrezione

ALFANO holds his place in operatic history, rather dubiously, for his completion of Puccini's *Turandot*. His own opera, "Risurrezione," written much earlier (1904), had never quite fallen out of the repertoire, and its revival this week by Beaufort Opera at the Polish Centre Theatre in Ham-

mersmith, indicates why it is more than of interest merely to the historian. Alfano knew as well as Puccini how to affect an audience's emotions. His somewhat desultory score is full of tearful melancholy and judiciously placed climaxes. On the other hand, it hardly matches up to the challenge presented by attempting to set to music Tolstoy's novel: "Resurrection." It is here little more than a starting point for a full-blooded verismo opera, whose hero, Katiuska, degenerates from true love to disgrace and prostitution before she is reborn in Siberia to self-sacrifice. Alfano never quite clinches his melodic profusion with taut enough structures.

In Tolstoy, the fate of the

hero, Prince Dimitri, is important, but here he is little more than a Pinkerton-like tenor, although his last-act behaviour is more palatable than Pinkerton's. It is the soprano's singing, and in the first act this staging, Marie-Elena Giordano, damil obviously enjoyed the opportunities Alfano offers for soaring, above the stage, her more than Italianate fervour in spite of some uneven patches.

Zbigniew Siniacki, the Dimitri, has a vigorous tenor, not always used with sensitivity. He was happier as the sympathetic, Pierre-like figure of the later acts than as the youthful lover.

Joseph Vandermoot conducted with a care for the work's often delicate scoring, but it could not be said that he or the Fobham Symphony Orchestra made the most of the work's possibilities. Peter Lehmann Bedford's staging is inevitably rudimentary, but in part it conveyed the simple conviction of the opera itself.

Alan Blyth

Tang Yun, Craig Sheppard

THE STUDENTSHIP of the young Chinese violinist Tang Yun cannot have been easy: after early successes in Shanghai there was the prohibition of Western music during the Cultural Revolution, and only then a course of studies that took her to New York and London.

Now, however, she is performing internationally, and at Wigmore Hall on Wednesday night she gave a most enjoyable recital with the pianist Craig Sheppard which proved her worth in the classical as well as the romantic and modern repertoires.

Opening with Beethoven's Sonata in G, op. 96, she projected a bright, clear line, perhaps not always alive to more mysterious moods, but purposefully directed, and then

she responded to the dark, romantically charged world of Chausson's "Poème" with an ideal blend of passion and fastidiousness.

Miss Yun truly came into her own here, and no less so in Ysaye's solo Sonata in E minor, op. 27 no. 4 which received an outstanding performance richly sonorous in multiple stopping, warmly phrased, the structural ebb and flow confidently caught.

Finally there was Prokofiev's First Sonata, and supported powerfully by Mr Sheppard, Miss Yun encompassed its fierce drive and its paragraphs of hauntingly evocative poetry in a tempestuous performance, her tone as rounded in rhythmic assault as in melting cantabile.

Anthony Payne

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ROBERT HALE

TRAVELS OF A NAIPAUL

By Anthony Powell

Beyond the Dragon's Mouth: Stories and Pieces. By Shiva Naipaul. (Hamish Hamilton. £12.50.)

THE Naipaul brothers are considered to some extent the scourges of humbug. They see things with an ironical and unforced realism that is at once laugher-provoking and disturbing. V. S. Naipaul, the elder, needs no introduction these days. Shiva Naipaul, perhaps a shade less known, is also much to be recommended.

This collection of autobiography, short stories and journalism (the last mostly travel pieces) is named after the strait outside Port-au-Prince in Trinidad from where the Indian Naipauls more immediately came. 'Beyond the Dragon's Mouth' begins with some account of the island itself, the life which Shiva Naipaul relinquished after winning a scholarship to Oxford. He was brought up in a district called St James.

St James differed in many ways from the neighbouring district of Woodbrook where my uncle lived. Woodbrook with its quiet streets, its sprinkling of tiny squares, its neat wooden houses fronted by verandas with fretted eaves from which were suspended orchids and ferns in baskets, was definitely more respectable, more desirably 'residential' in every respect than was St James. The latter was a shabby, shabby-skinned folk, families of clerical status, school-teachers, they all showed a marked preference for Woodbrook. It was also a favourite haunt of Presbyterians. There must have been more pianos to the square inch in Woodbrook than in any other district of Port-au-Prince. It had, in fact, enough, many fewer steel bands.

The above picture gives a good idea of the background for the stories that follow, though my own presence in the book is for Shiva Naipaul's personal adventures in exotic regions, to which category one would certainly include Earl's Court, Liverpool (pretty grim) and the West Country (less so). He lived in Earl's Court when he first arrived in London. His account of seeking a room, and how the mission that he was both Indian and a Hindu, was 'both a challenge to reason' leaving the lady at the agency 'vaguely agast' is very funny, though could not have been then.

When Mr Naipaul arranged to spend a few days in Fer, and write a short article about it, he managed to strike the right note during which Moems cannot eat, drink, or smoke between dawn and sunset. The Moroccan state jails one of the faithful for six months if caught conversing with this religious idler. It is good Mr Naipaul explains that he was not a Mohammedan. No one seemed to have heard of Hinduism.

To have a day's relief from this austerity he crossed to Algiers, leaving his luggage at a Tangier hotel. On his return, he was told his visa did not allow leaving Morocco for a day and coming back. The horrors of travel are well encapsulated in this piece.

Then we have Iran before the expulsion of the Shah, the tremendous boom of luxury and speeding before the hubbub and the sanguinary reign of the Ayatollah took over. The Iranian scene then has to be

THINK of it. King David has one of the world's greatest stories. And here it is, in 'God Knows,' telling us what his life was really like.

David is now a shivering, impotent old man surrounded by a bickering, scheming court. Listening to the still sly Bathsheba endlessly pushing the succession claim of their slow, perhaps not so stupid, son Solomon, he is happier remembering the psychotic Saul, his good friend Jonathan and his beloved, bad son Absalom. But one day David really admires his Moses. He even tries to summon the Great Man from the dead - but gets the prophet Samuel instead.

'Oh Christ,' I exclaimed in disgust. 'What are you doing here?'

'You sent for me?' said Samuel, with the hollow of his eyes upon me. He was no less cunning in spirit than he had been in life.

'Get me Moses. I don't want you.'

'He's resting. He's still very tired.'

'Tell him I have to talk to him. I bet he knows what I am.'

'He's as deaf as a stone. Death sometimes changes people for the worst,' said Samuel furoreously.

Even if one has reservations about rewriting the Bible for Joseph Heller, this is no denying that the book is a moving account of a young man's awe for a broken crucifix in a ruined church. Incident in a Far Country is a deftly turned fairy story. Some of the tales of other worlds seem just ill to me, but 'The Girl Who Sang,' about a mysterious dumb beauty, has a neat twist, and all are written with skill.

THF tales of Brian Aldiss in 'Seasons in Flight,' bright background. This tends to cast his characters into the shade, and necessary detail is some-

The locale in the best of them is often an island peopled by a community in Eastern Europe or, perhaps, a new world of Mr Aldiss's imagining. The Blue Background is a moving account of a young man's awe for a broken crucifix in a ruined church. Incident in a Far Country is a deftly turned fairy story. Some of the tales of other worlds seem just ill to me, but 'The Girl Who Sang,' about a mysterious dumb beauty, has a neat twist, and all are written with skill.

ANYONE who owns a television will feel at home with 'Machin' Dreams,' a first novel of rare maturity, which plots the life of a family in the American Mid West from before the second world war to the Vietnam conflict.

The Hampsons each have their say in turn: Jean who trains as a teacher because she recognises that her marriage will fail; her husband Mitch whose business declines; their daughter Danner who is appalled by the inevitable when brother Billy - full of the cocky confusion of a 1960s - embraces the draft.

There is undoubtedly an authentic touch to this unhappy saga, though it is hard to feel that the family is either of burning importance or even that it is a little too leisurely, and frequently irritated, as each section to the point which the reader was hooked at last, only to dissolve into the next.

By David Twiston Davies

God Knows. By Joseph Heller. (Cape. £8.95.)

Stained Glass Elegies. By Shusaku Endo. (Peter Owen. £7.95.)

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By W. F. Deedes

NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN. Vol. One. By David Dilks. (CUP. £20.)

has been done over by several biographers. They suffered handicaps. One was the interference of the loyal widow, Mrs Chamberlain. Another was the 50-year rule.

All of them left us feeling that Chamberlain was a misunderstood man. The difficulties, however, prevented them from helping us to understand him better. David Dilks has enjoyed advantages over his predecessors. He has had access to everything. No member of the Chamberlain family saw his manuscript.

The scope of his work has forced him to take two volumes, and this one ends in 1923. The last half of the book allows us to study the early life and character of this extraordinary man, without being swamped by the compulsive events of 1933-39.

A sample: when Chamberlain fell low in public esteem, critics recalled with relish that he was the man who in his youth went to the Bahamas and lost part of the family fortune in a disastrous failure to grow sisal. Professor Dilks gets this into proper perspective and adds:

These straining years of toil did for Neville Chamberlain what war has sometimes done for young men: lucky enough to survive it, the experience fed an interest in the wider world and the humorous observation of alien ways of behaviour.

The least ambitious of his contemporaries, Chamberlain had to be dragged step by step from the family circle and justness and the civic life of Birmingham towards national politics. He suffered another setback when Lloyd George, in the darkest days of the first world war, begged him to join the National Service, and he taught him something about the funny ways of Whitehall.

Yet, when he took the plunge and entered Parliament (as 481 his rise in office and influence was astonishing. Not the least of his influence lay in the respect Labour had for him.

Baldwin made him Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1923 - taking four days to persuade him - not simply because he had been an accomplished Minister of Health, but because the Prime Minister needed someone near him whom he could trust and consult. It was observed that they were both businessmen. There all similarity ended.

When, after Labour's brief first experiment in government, Baldwin returned again in 1924, Chamberlain joined the Treasury. Chamberlain's back to Health joyfully - imagine that today - and proved the best all-round administrator in the Cabinet. He was also Prime Minister. He was also Prime Minister. He was also Prime Minister.

Neville was a contrast also to his half-brother, Austen. He was a contrast also to his half-brother, Austen. He was a contrast also to his half-brother, Austen.

The discovery that 'Cart-horse' is an anagram of 'Orchestra' we owe no doubt to a player's depressive subconscious. And among musicians Richard II means Strauss as distinct from Wagner. But surely takes into account the latest Turner discoveries.

If I had to pick one book for its sheer elegance, it would be Francis Cheetham's (Phaidon/Christie, £70) which consists primarily of the catalogue of the V and A's superb collection. The few colour plates and the many in black-and-white are all vivid and the introduction explains how these, for the most, little pieces, formed part of altars.

In French style

Marianne Roland Michel's 'Watteau' (Trefoil, £25.95), translated by Richard Wigley and Jennifer Wanklyn, is a major work. There is a substantial text that is both biographical and critical. The colour plates are not perfect but black-and-whites are very well reproduced. 'French Eighteenth-Century Painting' (Gordon Fraser, £40), by David Wakefield, covers Watteau, course, in an adequate, and well-illustrated, general survey.

To 'Seenes of Everyday Life: Dutch Genre Painting of the Seventeenth Century' (Faber, £25). Christopher Brown shows a refreshing honesty. Wonderful though Vermeer and Co. were, they were producing popular art and their work should be considered as such. With many good examples, we are produced, he takes us on a guided tour of the simple scenes the Dutch loved to draw.

The Dutch were fond of paintings featuring dead animals, particularly in the second half of the 17th century. This interest in hunting reflected the influence of the middle classes. Scott A. Sullivan writes learnedly but readably on the subject in 'The Dutch Gamepiece' (Boydell, £45).

Thames & Hudson have produced condensed versions of some of their major studies, colour plates, and good value at £12.95 each. The first titles are 'Rembrandt' by Ludwig Munz with Bob Haak, 'Rembrandt' by Walter Pach and 'Monet' by William C. Seitz.

Two books on Whistler might seem to be an embarras, but most 'glitz' is James McNeill Whistler at the Frer Gallery of Art' (Norion, £28.95) which is primarily a catalogue of the New York museum's holdings, but David Park Curry has written a substantial introduction and the reproductions are very fine. Katharine Lochman's 'The Etchings of James McNeill Whistler' (Yale

UP, £25; paperback, £8.95) is published during the year, more directed at art historians than stand out for their sheer weight, their authority, the excellence of their production and for the fact that they both may be called definitive. They are also exceedingly expensive but, for what they offer, not unduly so.

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Detail of a 15th-century French panel of St Anne teaching the Christ Child to read, from 'English Medieval Alabasters' which is reviewed below.

Old Master class

By David Holloway

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The first is Graham Reynolds's majestic 'The Later Paintings and Drawings of John Constable' (Yale UP, 2 vols, £140). Rightly, this work, sponsored by the Paul Mellon Foundation for the Study of British Art, has been awarded this year's Mitchell Prize for History of Art. You could say that it was no more than a catalogue, indeed there is almost no narrative but each entry is a little essay on its own.

We see the various versions of the famous pictures and the sketches from which they emerged. The first volume contains the text, the second the plates, printed in masterly fashion. Also from Yale UP, and sponsored by the Mellon Foundation, is a similar two-volume work, 'The Paintings of J. M. W. Turner' (£125), the revised edition of the study written by Martin Butlin and Evelyn Joll in 1978 (it too won the Mitchell Prize in that year). Not everyone proved of the printing of the Turner pictures in the original edition but this time the plates, produced by the Westernham Press, do full justice to the artist. The text takes into account the latest Turner discoveries.

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The collectors' corner

By Richard Conduit

FEW among us can expect to collect anything much in the way of precious stones. But we can dream, and Benjamin Zuckerman's "Gems and Jewels: A Collector's Guide" (Thames & Hudson, £30) is the stuff that dreams are made of.

It is sumptuously produced with many coloured photographs and takes us stone by stone from rubi, sapphire, emerald and diamond through to jade, opal and garnet. The chemical content is discussed and the reader is shown where to find fine examples. The prose sparkles a bit brightly, but then it is difficult to write prosaically about gems.

One could guess that no jeweller's business has handled more precious stones than Cartier. Hans Nadelhoffer has written a much illustrated history, "Cartier: Jewellers Extraordinary" (Thames & Hudson, £25), in which he charts the growth of the firm from its modest Parisian beginnings, its expansion under the founder's three sons who made its name familiar among Indian millionaires and American millionaires under its present state under new ownership.

Far more modest in its scope but very good value is Diana Scarisbrick's "Jewellery" (Batsford, £8.50). This is a sensible historical survey of the wearing of gems from the beginning of the 17th century. Not much colour but plenty of good black-and-white plates. Also in the "Costume Accessories" series at the same price, is Helene Alexander's "Fans" which is again historical and makes good use of paintings to show fans in use.

"Starting to Collect Silver" (Antique Collectors' Club, £14.50), by John Luddington, is much more than a primer. It does indeed assume no knowledge but with plenty of black-and-white illustrations and resort to question and answer sessions soon has the reader looking at his own pieces with new knowledge and ability. Douglas Bennett's "Collecting Irish Silver, 1637-1800" (Sovereign, £14.95) is aimed at the more informed. It has a valuable appendix listing marks and makers.

Roger Miley-Fletcher and Roger Miley have, for "Christie's Pictorial History of European Pottery" (Phaidon/Christie's, £25), been able to rely on objects that have passed through the auction house as illustrations. This wide-ranging survey covers all Northern Europe, though as its title implies it does not include porcelain. The text is relatively brief but the pictures are glorious.

One of the finest collections of the product of the first 25 years of porcelain manufacture at Worcester is that belonging to the American, Kenneth Klepper. This has now been catalogued and annotated by Simon Sperry in "Worcester Porcelain: The Klepper Collection" (Lund Humphries with Minneapolis Institute of Art, £30). A bonus to this volume is an appendix in which are printed the gossipy letters from Mr Klepper's main supplier in England, the late T. Leonard Crow, which give a lively picture of the collectors' world.

The entire history of "Royal Copenhagen" (Stacey International, £25) is laid with great spirit by H. V. F. Win-tune with the help of some excellent photographs. Though obviously aimed at the collector, it is a book that can be enjoyed by anyone. It includes such details as the menu for one of the last mid 19th-century meals eaten from one of the royal dinner services.

One must go a long way down the social scale from royal banquets to find the toby jugs or great pitchers with allegorical or topical scenes embossed on them. R. K. Henrywood introduces us to the makers of this form of pottery in "Relief-Moulded Jugs, 1820-1900" (Antique Collectors' Club, £14.50) and tells us what to look for, with the help of his 300 illustrations.

Someone who wants to know more about the subject could not do much better than to invest in "Macdonald" (Macdonald, £9.95), by Rachael Feild, which takes the reader through the process of manufacture and repair remarkably clearly and gives a number of salutary warnings about sharp practice along the way.

Of interest really only to those with a passion for bygone America are two handsome volumes, both published by Norton at £35: "Textiles in America, 1650-1870", by Florence M. Montgomery is in dictionary form and greatly detailed; "Arts of the Pennsylvania Germans", written by Scott T. Swank and others, covers furniture, textiles, glass, books and so on.

From Russia have come two richly illustrated volumes cataloguing the riches held in the Soviet museums, both are published by Allen Lane. "Rings and Carvings from Central Asia" (£30) is by Elena Tzarova and "Rings and Carpets from the Caucasus" (£25) is by Liatiff Kerimov, Nona Stepanian, Lulvana Grigolova and David Tsitsishvili. Both are translated by Arthur Sbakrovsky-Rallis. The first of these catalogues shows in good colour some wonderful work from the Southern Soviet Republics.

Before investing in any of the annual price-guides I would urge a novice to read the clearly set-out information in "Christie's Guide to Collecting" (Phaidon/Christie's, £9.95), edited by Robert Cumming, in which various experts write short essays giving advice on all aspects of collecting - displaying, insuring, conserving, bidding at auctions.

There is a warning included that price guides can only show what was paid for a particular object; they cannot establish a list-price as with second-hand motor cars. Having said that it must be admitted that the three guides compiled by Tony Curtis make riveting reading: "The Lyle Official Antiques Review, 1985" (£9.95), "The Lyle Price Guide to Collectibles" (£9.95) and "The Lyle Price Guide to Printed Collectibles" (£9.95) show what was paid for items illustrated.

The same warning should be given to those using Joseph Connolly's "Modern First Editions: Their Value to Collectors" (Orbis, £15). Here listed under selected authors are estimates of the price of first editions. It makes useful reading for one who took the jacket off his first edition of Ian Fleming's "Casino Royale" and gave the book to his children to read. Mr Connolly rates a jacketed copy as worth up to £750. Ah well.

"I CAN take them with a dose of salts," said Sam Goldwyn, referring to the abuses of his adopted tongue with which he inadvertently staked a second claim to immortality and, in the process, adding another "Goldwynism" to the collection.

So found was this single source that Patrick Hughes adds a 14-page appendix to "More on Oxymeron" (Cape, £7.95), showing how the Polish emigrant-magnum provided one or several examples for each of ten bulls under scrutiny in the book. This generic term, commonly known as the Irish Bull, is restricted by the dictionary to "an expression containing contradiction in terms, or implying ludicrous inconsistency." But Mr Hughes, who describes himself as "short-sighted and myopic," has identified other distinct themes to add to the ploniam, the tautology and the eponymous oxymeron.

Goldwyn's every utterance seemed to fit the bill. As an example of the obvious, Mr Hughes cites: "The reason so many people showed up at Louis B. Mayer's funeral was because they wanted to make sure he was dead." As "figure/ground reversal" - where the usual reversal is transposed - he recalls Goldwyn standing at the rail of a Transatlantic liner leaving New York and shouting to his assembled relatives, friends and employees: "Bon voyage! Bon voyage!"

Each of the figures in Mr Hughes's lively diagnosis has a visual equivalent. But the spilled-ink gag from the joke shop (oxymeron) and Magritte's drawing of a eagle giving forth rain and clouds (contradiction in terms) lack the bonest spontaneity of the spoken word.

"Well, I won one game in a row," said the chess grandmaster Victor Korchin. Groucho Marx's "self-contradiction" that "I would refuse to join any club that would have me as a member" crops up again, amended, in "Cutting Edge - or Back in the Kaitie" (Miss Shaper) (Dent, £8.95), where Ned Sherrin prophesies that "[Marx's] 'I don't care to belong to any club that will accept me as a member' will be stolen and played with for ever."

True to his form as a broadcaster, Mr Sherrin's anthology "More Christmas books next week" of wit travels like some hurtling mail-train, pocking at bags of valuables labelled "the word-smiths," "showbiz" or "the human appetites." W. C. Fields' astonished "What contemptible scoundrel stole the cork from my lunch?" occurs in both the second and third categories.

Gerald Ford's "Ronald Reagan doesn't dye his hair - he's just prematurely orange" has as much resonance now as did in 1974. And Denis Healey "came to fame" for Mr Sherrin by describing a debate with Sir Geoffrey Howe as "like being savaged by a dead sheep." A year later the adroit Healey was adapting it to "being nibbled by a hairbrush."

It is odd to find Henry Root (alias William Donaldson), whose letters struck home in all areas of public life four years ago, sporting a section, offering Brian Clough £3 to buy a foreign player and suggesting to Ted Dexter that the names of Indian

cricketers do not matter - "just say, 'Oh dear, the ball went straight through the little sooty's legs.'" It was the conjunction of Root's outrageous approach with the unpredictable rejoinder which made the first volume so irresistible.

A brave attempt has been made to out-root Donaldson by Brian O'Connell in "The Defence Diaries of W. Morgan Petty" (Viking, £6.95), charting the campaign to establish a nuclear-free zone at 3, Cherry Drive, Canterbury. Radio 4 listeners will recall a drab serialisation, but the book comes alive with the carefully reasoned game-playing by some of his distinguished correspondents.

Sir Austin Pearce of British Aerospace warns of the danger to "gladioli and other living matter" from the down-thrust of a Harrier if Petty buys one to keep in the garden. Lords Hill-Norton and Carver offer respectively a scythe and a Swedish cavalry officer's sabre "to thicken up your defences."

More headed newspaper, this time from the Department of Administrative Affairs, is reproduced under the 30-year rule in "The Complete Yes Minister - The Diaries of a Cabinet Minister by the Rt Hon. James Hacker, M.P." (BBC, £8.75). This savoury-bound, 500-page volume is brilliantly edited by Jonathan Lynn and Antony Jay, who write from Hacker College, Oxford, in September, 2019, that the diaries constitute a unique contribution to our understanding of the way that Britain was governed in the 1980s. Many a true word. . . . For almost alone Messrs. Lynn and Jay are making good the shortage they have found "of comic literature that takes on the realities of modern government."

Our books for Christmas also include John Kenyon's "Highland Doves" (£9.95), an epic journey, undertaken by the author, family, friends, and animals. Eric Newby says it is "A lovely book... takes you out of the 20th century, and a glimpse of his Orkney's diary written in 1943-44, which is a very good read" (£9.95) - "a story of great generosity, courage, and even heroism."

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JOHN MURRAY

Millions of pages of Christmas gifts

Line and length

CAN you really give the cricketer in the family yet another anthology this Christmas? The answer is an emphatic "yes" in the case of "The Joy of Cricket" (Secker, £12.95) and of "A Walk to the Wicket" (Lennon (Allen & Unwin, £9.95). Be a devil, and give him (or her) both - these are among the best of their kind.

"The Joy of Cricket" is produced on shiny paper that ensures beautiful reproduction of the many illustrations. Its editor, John Bright-Holmes, has chosen widely and well, with not always the obvious selection. For example, we have C. S. Martin on Parkin as a change from Cardus, but Cardus on Compton is indispensable, the old master at his best. Alan Rois on H. T. Bartlett is a gem. The text of the victory calypso is included, as is an evocative piece by Michael Meyer on Volley. Bert Sutcliffe's heroic 80, after injury, for New Zealand at Johannesburg in 1955 is thrillingly told by Ray Robinson.

But it's not all ancient heroes. Boycott, Greg Chappell, G.V. Richards and Gavaskar are described, who will be found to do justice to the conspicuous absence. Both? The only concession to tedium is the inclusion of a piece by Roy Hattersley, rather unkind, because he is not in the Sassoon-Blunden-Moorhouse league.

"A Walk to the Wicket" is an anthology with a difference. Here the chosen items are incorporated into narrative by one or other of the editors. The choice is often unusual and embraces fiction. It's good in this context to read an extract from Ian Hay's "Pip" and to see recognition of John Parker's sequel to de Selincourt, an almost impossible task excellently accomplished. Umpires and scorers are represented too, with a fine account of the day Arthur Fagg "went on strike" in a Test Match.

Mike Brearley's description of the 1981 Headingley victory is reprinted here (it will become a much-anthologised piece, and no wonder), and so is A. G. Mow's exciting account of the 1980 tie at Brisbane. Dexter himself describes the 1963 Lord's Test against the West Indies when Cowdrey went out to bat with a broken arm. (No other book, Colin MacInnes writes about it). No pictures, just woodcuts.

"A Century of Grace" (Hammond Press, £1.95) by Harry Furniss, will fit into a pocket, and I was about to say it can be read in a break while you are waiting for Dickie Bird to come to terms with his light-meter, but it's shorter than that. It contains anecdotes, some plainly apocryphal, about "W. G." and Harry Furniss's memorable cartoons drawn in 1896.

Michael Kennedy

Michael Kennedy

Michael Kennedy

Michael Kennedy

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The 1981 Headingley victory is reprinted here (it will become a much-anthologised piece, and no wonder), and so is A. G. Mow's exciting account of the 1980 tie at Brisbane. Dexter himself describes the 1963 Lord's Test against the West Indies when Cowdrey went out to bat with a broken arm. (No other book, Colin MacInnes writes about it). No pictures, just woodcuts.

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WHISMITH
CHRISTMAS

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SPARKLING PRETTILY WITH A TOUCH OF VICTORIANA

ONCE, children went to Christmas parties dressed in a rainbow of vibrant colours of sugar almond pastels: not any longer. It seems, judging from the crowd of black and grey party dresses the shops are busy selling.

Even if almost the only colour at parties this Christmas could be in the partygoers' cheeks and sparkling eyes,

there is a touch of Victorian demureness in these reticent neutrals which could bring out all the charm of fresh young skins.

C & A, that highly successful store, obviously believes so, for in its recently-launched (and much needed) small range of ice-age clothes, it is confidently playing up grey and black.

IN THE SKETCH

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
Demure little cotton-mixture dress in red or navy, hand embroidered and smocked in the Philippines, 3 to 7 years, £19 from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1; Schofield of Leeds; Little Shop, Ashburton, Devon.
From C & A's recently-launched "10 to Teens" range, grey, satin-look Bermudas £8.99, under loose, black brushed cotton top with satin insets £9.99, 10 to 16 years from C & A, West End and selected branches.
Another from C & A's range: pretty, sophisticated, silky jacquard dress, blousing low on the hips, 10 to 16 years, £17.99, West End and selected branches.
A smashing look plus a famous label: Saint Laurent's simple black velvet

bodice has a high throat ruffle and spreading, silky, sapphire blue skirt printed with a black squiggle, 7 to 10 years, £59 from Harvey Nichols.
Enchanting little grey, taffeta-look dress strewn with tiny damask roses, the white, lace-edged collar and cuffs bordered with minute seed pearls, 2 to 6 years, £45 from Harvey Nichols.
Breezily demure, a grand foil for fresh young skins, white-collared, black velvet dress, 3 to 10 years, £23.95 to £29.95 from Laura Ashley, 7-9 Harriet Street, London SW1, and main country branches.
A sheeny, taffeta-look dress, low-waisted and gently striped in grey, plum and green, teamed with a delicate white, pearl collar, 8 to 13 years, £27.95 from Harvey Nichols.



Sketch and report by BERYL HARTLAND

Before the rush begins...

THE Christmas season this year in America officially begins today. Until now, the Great Consumer Society has shown little sign in the stores, on television, commercials or in the Press that there are only 27 shopping days left before Christmas.

What holds them back? It is Thanksgiving Day, to my mind the nicest holiday on the American calendar. The fourth Thursday in November, the one really non-commercial day of celebration in the whole year, decreed by Congress in a joint resolution in 1941.

Traditionally, it is a time for family reunion. Everyone makes an enormous effort to get back home for the celebration. An estimated 38 million Americans were on the move this year. The airlines said their internal flights were practically fully booked, and lots of reservations were made two months in advance. It was their busiest time of the year, they said, more so than Christmas, when many people take skiing holidays or go down South.

This great national holiday, as everyone in America knows, commemorates the harvest reaped by the Plymouth Colonists in 1621. After a year of privations and near-starvation, they gathered these meagre harvest and shared a Thanksgiving feast. Four wild turkeys, corn, squash, sweet potatoes, berries and autumnal fruits, shared with the local Indians, and largely provided by them.

The memory of those early settlers' hardships and their survival is now part of America's heritage. At one Thanksgiving dinner we went to the host, unembarrassed, retold the story in his own words before the meal started.

It is the one day in the year when Americans close shop and enjoy a family day together. The stores are closed, and even the supermarkets, normally open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., shut their doors for this one day of the year.

The day is observed by church services throughout the States and parish halls offer free meals to the poor. This year the local churches said they provided more meals than ever. The fare is the same for everyone, basically the ingredients of the first Thanksgiving, but the preparation is more sophisticated. Everyone in America sits down to roast turkey, cranberry sauce, glazed sweet potatoes, creamed squash, corn muffins and pumpkin pie and pecan tarts.

Do the Indians celebrate? For the integrated Indians it is a pretty much acquired, standard holiday. For the majority of tribes, who are in reservations west of the Mississippi, the day is taken as a holiday too.

But from today the full force of American sales pressure is on for Christmas.

Moyra Beeston
IN WASHINGTON

Getting bright designs on industry

THERE is more going on in the way of Government-aided activity in the design field, in its broadest sense, than ever before.

The recent Investment in Design exhibition at London's Design Centre, celebrating the success of the Design Advisory Service Funded Consultancy Scheme, linking firms needing better design input with designers able to give it to them, is the most obvious tangible result.

Last week the Council for National Academic Awards, with the Department of Trade and Industry, published a report on the need to educate potential industrial managers on exploiting design and has set up appropriate pilot schemes at three polytechnics.

And last week there was the first British Contract Clothing Exhibition, where the bread-and-butter area of clothing manufacturers, who are also the mass employers and mass revenue earners, sell to the major chain retailers whose labels the clothes will bear. The particular

interest here is to sell such own-label ranges abroad and the exhibition is backed by the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, many of whose projects are Government-funded through the British Overseas Trade Board.

Most of the design incentive has come from the DTI but, on the all-important education side, the Department of Education and Science is also involved. Under their auspices the Business and Technician Education Council has held meetings round the country entitled Design by Experience, aimed at encouraging better links between industrial employers and students of art and design, with a view to offering students short-term placements in industrial firms.

To show the importance of design across the Government departments, one of the speakers at the second seminar was John Butcher, Under Secretary of State for Industry and the man who has become most identified with putting over the design message.

Mr Butcher joined the DTI two years ago, shortly after the Prime Minister started the ball rolling with the Downing Street seminar on product design and market success that led to the founding of the Funded Consultancy Scheme and other proposals.

His background is not in design but he said: "I was firmly bitten by the bug within two months of joining this department. I found myself meeting very talented, bright and provocative people and wondered why they were not recognised when they would be stars in Italy or France, and I was determined to find ways to maximise their contribution."

He also found massive evidence that all British environments — home, work and leisure — contained many examples of design manufactured abroad.

It was apparent that British industry was not making use of the huge pool of British design talent.

"I refuse to believe that the British public are 'visually illiterate,'" he said. "On the contrary, a sophisticated design awareness has resulted in too many foreign imports, to satisfy demand."

But there are, he feels, cultural problems in the attitudes of both industry and designers. "There has, until recently, been an antipathy towards the basic business of manufacturing things, especially utility items on a mass scale," he said. "The area has no glamour appeal. Industrial employers still often find that designers coming into a first job suffer culture shock in industry. Conversely, many employers still see designers as arty non-necessaries."

Earlier this year, Mr Butcher put out what was, he said, the first Whitehall policy document designed by a designer. In clear and concise terms and sharp graphics, it outlines Government thinking on the whole topic.

singled out for special aid is the textile industry and, here, Mr Butcher works in conjunction with Mr Norman Lamont who, as sponsoring Minister for the textile industry, is aware of the importance of design in this field and has become known as the Government's "Mr Fashion."

Both Ministers are concerned that not just the high-fashion end of the trade should be highlighted and made attractive to designers but also the "bread-and-butter" section where most of the revenue accrues.

Textiles, interior design and other art areas have been traditional avenues for women designers, but the Department is keen to encourage them into other disciplines.

"Women have much to contribute in areas many of them may never have considered. Like cars, industrial design and street furniture," said Mr Butcher.

"The main aim is to keep design firmly in the public and industrial eye, to give it wider exposure. It's gratifying that it is being discussed more now, both in industry and in financial institutions, who eventually must have a major say."

BY AVRIL GROOM



LEFT: Mr John Butcher M.P., Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Industry.

THE TEACHER WHO STAYED ON

MICHAEL CLOSE could fairly be described as an anachronism. A very British schoolmaster, with a Cambridge degree, he chose to make his life on the Indian sub-continent where he arrived in 1937. Nearly 50 years later he is still there, still teaching and with as few possessions as he had then.

In the Rajputana Rifles during the war, he ended commanding a company of Pathans — the tribesmen who were to keep him attached to the North-West Frontier for the rest of his life.

I had been teaching in Delhi before the war and settled easily into India," he said. "I intended to stay there afterwards. But the Pathans were so friendly, happy and intensely loyal that when I heard of a job going in Peshawar I came here instead."

Here, of course, since partition, is Pakistan, but to Michael it is the Pathan homeland above all.

"I suppose I settled into a routine of just being in Peshawar and going home on leave once every three years," he continued. "In the 1950s I used to get home for Peshawar but gradually this attitude changed and now I think there is a balance between England and here."

face lined by the sun as much as the years, Michael lives in a bare bedchamber above the students' canteen at Edwarsons College, one of the famous schools in Peshawar. Until the age of 63 he taught English at one of the other prestigious schools, Islamia College. "They retired me but the principal here kindly took me in on a yearly contract basis."

He sounded sad as he added that he didn't know what he would do if he could no longer be of use. "Perhaps I do feel something of a relic," he admitted. "But education is a field where the English are still welcome. As long as I can work that is fine. I don't want to retire. What would I do?"

A bachelor, who obviously had no thought for the future, Michael has never even bought a house in all the years he has been there, but has lived in rooms all his life. "I've never been interested in possessions," he said.

Indeed, his room is that of an ascetic. The narrow bed, deal wardrobe and desk framed by postcards of idyllic English country scenes is reminiscent of a missionary's cell, even more so when you notice the crucifix inconspicuously placed above a splashed-out shaving brush. "Yes," he said at my unspoken question, "I am Anglo-Catholic leaning in my youth and

still read theology for pleasure."

Was he a bappy man? He thought at some length and answered what he obviously regarded as an impolite question courteously. "I've done what I wanted to do," he said simply. "I suppose I should have thought more about the future, but I never thought about it at all. Even my adopted sons sort of came about. By then it was too late to plan for even such a limited family."

Now in their early twenties, these "sons" are two Pathan boys whose education Michael has paid for since they were about

eight years old. At that time Michael was in charge of a hostel at Islamia College to which casual workers from Afghanistan attached themselves.

One family's son was knocked down by a rickshaw and needed regular hospital treatment. Michael found himself taking the child there and grew attached to him.

"The second boy was just playing around the hostel. He seemed bright so I offered to help with his education too." He looked faintly surprised at what he had done but was thrilled that the elder boy, Sahar Gul, who now works for the Save the Children Fund, had been to stay with Michael's relatives in England this summer. "He

became part of the family and had a marvellous time."

What remains of Michael's family is a brother in Bournemouth, an aged aunt and uncle in Richmond and various cousins whom he sees on his now bi-annual visits to England. "I also spend a month in my old college at Cambridge and even went to France for the first time for years, doing a tour of the French cathedrals. Rome is the next on my programme. I have seen less of Europe than I might have done if I had returned home. I miss certain books and I've never learned about modern music, which I feel I should have done. Yet, as far as I had any strategy in life, I was set on staying here. I've never regretted it."

We could have gone on talking all night. He discussed the decline in educational standards, the problems of administration, particularly in the hospitals, where cleanliness is not all it should be. But he returned constantly to what has kept him in Peshawar — the friendliness and smiling faces of the Pathans.

"Then there is the magnificent mountain scenery, but what I love most is the real Pathan country, the rugged red, barren hills of Kobat district."

Michael was born in Golders Green. It is a long way from the North-West Frontier, but there seems little doubt that he would prefer to die, as he has lived, among his beloved Pathans.

A haul of patterns from the past

THE chance to create your own beautiful patterned silks, or maybe cotton or wallpaper, and to resurrect an old craft industry is coming up at Christie's South Kensington with the auction of a unique collection of hand-printed blocks by leading designers of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Discovered in a Victorian warehouse due for demolition, the 400 or more blocks were once used by David Evans and Company and their predecessors to stamp the finest silks with swirling poppies, passion flowers and Paisley, darning butterflies, swallows and dolphins and parades of mystical Egyptian figures.

But, as screen printing gradually took over after the last war, the blocks fell out of use and were left to gather the dust in a building on the Old Dover Road at Crayford in Kent. There they were tracked down by an amateur collector from Gloucestershire, Mr Richard Stephens and his partner just before the place was flattened.

Mr Stephens, whose business is in oil, had begun collecting textile printing blocks in the early 1970s but it seems that most have been destroyed or dispersed by the firms that used them. He said: "I found very few indeed before this. But these blocks are among the best and the scarcest because they were made for printing silk."

Since Mr Stephens and his partner acquired them four years ago about 20 have gone to museums around the world and a large proportion of the remainder, now rechristened the Central Collection by Mr Stephens, are being sold on Tuesday chiefly, he said, because of the problem of storage.

The blocks are mostly carved wood but some are cast metal and in certain cases they are attractive as antiques in themselves. They are an example of a printing technique which dates back 3,000 years and, though many are less than a foot square, they often took two

or three months to make. Unfortunately, records of when they were made or purchased by Evans, now a subsidiary of Seckers International, were lost in the Blitz, but certainly some of the blocks were created for Harrods, Liberty and Warners. Among the best are the Art Nouveau examples, some believed to be by William Morris.

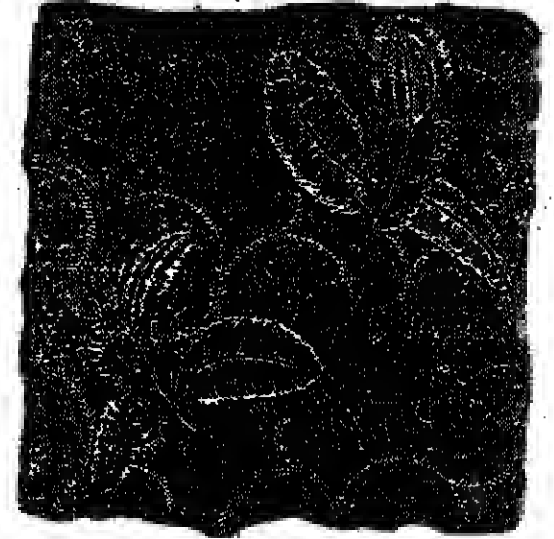
Some were used to print dress materials and a few were probably for furnishings, but most were for shawls, hand-

kerchiefs and headscarves, including the 18th-century blocks purchased by Cheapside silk merchant David Evans with Augustus Applegarth's "Bandanna" (Hindi multi-coloured headscarf) factory in 1843.

Since no two blocks were ever made exactly the same, buyers at Christie's are getting original, exclusive designs and the cost may be no more than £20 apiece.

The method of printing with the blocks is similar to using a rubber stamp and ink pad. The main necessities are a strong, firm table covered with blanket, a water-resistant cloth and a back-cloth to absorb excess dye, to which the silk or other material is pinned, plus a means of cooking the block evenly with colour.

Pitch pins, which most blocks retain and mark the corners of the design on the textile, should ensure an accurate repetition of the pattern which is stamped on to it. Where blocks come in sets, a multi-coloured pattern may be devised.



ABOVE: Sprigs of feathers in brass stripes on wood, dating from 1860 to 1870.

Alison Beckett

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A PLAIN WARNING

WEDNESDAY'S NONSENSE in the Commons was rather more than coosense. Constructive tumult from the back-benches we know about, the protest, sometimes boorish, sometimes brave, not always invalid of one individual (IRENE WARD or TAM DALYELL) can be understood. On Wednesday, however, a group of MPs behaved like a coercion pack on a street corner. There was a whiff of "extra-parliamentary opposition" paradoxically within the chamber itself. A number of members evidently wish to operate on the margins of physical force-politics where parts of the NUM have long resided. The Speaker, Mr BERNARD WEATHERILL, coped very well indeed, giving a brief chance for civility to re-assert itself and then cutting the craziness short by abrupt suspension. What we have to fear is that this will not be a brief intermezzo, but that such overflows of street politics will become commonplace. There are enough people in parliament who hate and despise parliament as the product of fraudulent petty bourgeois arithmetic, to organise this sort of outburst whenever they wish.

No naming took place, perhaps because the failure to punish MICHAEL HESLITINE for his solo endeavour with the mace some years ago may have inhibited action. But practical rules must be worked out for a coming session in which the anti-parliamentary parliamentarians try to smash rational debate. Punishment is a much underestimated mechanism for stopping people from doing things. Were the Speaker in the next few days to set out his own code of consequences he could help parliament and his own authority enormously. One and two day suspensions are worse than useless; they are sought after, they constitute maximum publicity and minimum tribulation. If you are going to martyr somebody, martyr him properly! Suspensions for group protesters and for all users of violence should have a minimum tariff, say three months, and should entail loss of salary. At the discretion of the Speaker the term should rise steeply. The place for extra-parliamentary opposition should be, in every sense the words will bear, outside. Unless very specific and very hard things are promised quickly we have a season of low, barbarous delights before us.

A LESSON FOR THE UNIONS

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO determine the extent to which the pre-strike ballot clauses of the 1984 Trade Union Act contributed to the collapse of the Austin Rover pay strike. Even without the new legislation it was always probable that the B.L. shop stewards were going to face considerable difficulties in maintaining a united front. Plants were divided between those earning high productivity bonuses and those which were not. Workers were divided between the skilled engineers and electricians who receive substantial overtime payments and the men on the assembly track who do not. There seems little doubt, however, that the company's willingness to make use of the Act's provisions by issuing injunctions and threatening to seek contempt fines at least hastened the strike's deactivation. By claiming that the shop stewards had rigged the outcome of mass meetings and by forcing the issue of a secret ballot, Austin Rover's management succeeded in stripping the strike of all legitimacy.

The lessons of the abortive Austin Rover strike for trade union leaders are threefold. The first is an old one—find out the mood of your members. Conscript strikers do not impress determined and strong-willed managements. Secondly, face up to the fact that the people you represent approve of the idea of secret ballots and do not think that your objections to them amount to a row of beans. Finally, do not fool yourself into thinking that denouncing laws you happen to dislike will make them go away. Principled opposition is one thing, but to refuse obedience to the law is futile.

As time passes, it becomes clearer just how clever and effective the Government's step-by-step strategy to reform the trade unions is proving. By moving gradually, the Government has always found itself responding to public opinion rather than attempting to lead it. That is as it should be—astuteness is a higher political virtue than brute courage. Inevitably, it will take some time before the full impact of all the legislation which has been passed since 1981 is felt. It does not seem over-optimistic, however, to look forward to a time when unions are more democratic, more responsive to their members' wishes and less tied to one political party than they are today. Further measures to curb the monopoly bargaining power of trade unions may well, in the interests of the unemployed, who find themselves priced out of work, prove necessary, but the Government is entitled to feel quietly pleased with what has been achieved to date.

UNESCO: A BOLD DECISION

THE GOVERNMENT IS TO BE congratulated on its decision to give notice at the end of this year of withdrawal from Unesco. After some wavering, it has overcome the natural conservatism of the Foreign Office and resisted the pressure applied by various Commonwealth Governments in recent weeks. The petty cuts proposed for the B.C. external service and the British Council, by contrast with Unesco's estimable organisations, are another matter.

Unesco is an inefficient, politicised, mismanaged and partly corrupt organisation which even its friends find difficult to defend. Nonetheless it has done some good things and no doubt could again. It is very important that the countries which remain part of Unesco, and most particularly those Commonwealth countries which have been pressing us to stay, should understand that Britain is opposed to the practices, not the principles, of the organisation. In his statement to the Commons yesterday, Sir GEOFFREY HOWE made clear that if these practices were reformed Britain would not leave at the end of next year. One may well doubt Unesco's ability to reform itself, yet it could be done, and one act would make it possible. That is the resignation of Mr AMADOU MATIAR M'BOU, the Senegalese Director-General who has been so intimately associated with Unesco's 10-year decline, and his replacement by a figure acceptable to all sides.

The threatened departure of Britain, and the actual departure of the United States at the end of this year, may not in themselves undermine Mr M'BOU's very considerable pride. But if several other European Governments said that they would leave unless Mr M'BOU went, it is possible that some Third World countries could find him a pleasant surprise. These countries know that Unesco, starved of funds by the West, will perish. The way to save it in the long term is for other Western nations to follow our example.

PETER PATERSON sees the miners' president losing a war he does not

know how to end but for which the blame must be passed to others

EVEN if the steady drift back to work by the miners is not quite on the scale predicted by the National Coal Board, it ought to be sufficient to demonstrate even to Arthur Scargill's diehards that the game is up. Every national union leader I have spoken to in recent weeks agrees that by any normal standard of industrial relations there is nothing more that can possibly be gained by continuing the strike.

But the dispute in the coal industry is not by any means "normal". It cannot be compared even to the two national mining disputes of 1972 and 1973-4 under the leadership of Lord Gormley: both of these could be claimed as a victory, the latter—given its political consequences—an overwhelming victory. But both came within the recognisable standards of industrial warfare. Both were preceded by a ballot of the members, and both ended when the leadership of the National Union of Mineworkers judged that its objectives had been achieved. The miners went into these strikes united, and they went back united to work.

Mr Scargill is dangerously close to presiding over a defeated battle. After nearly nine months, important sections of the union have been working throughout. Others, seeing no scope for further negotiations and fed up with the needless sacrifices they have made, are now drifting back to work.

YET Mr Scargill continues to hurl defiance at his rallies in the mining areas as though total victory were still within his grasp. He must know that this is no longer possible. Unless Government assurances on fuel supplies are completely wrong, or unless there is a dramatic change of heart by the members of the key unions in rail and road transport, the docks and the power stations, there will be no power cuts this winter, no three-day week, no economic strangulation which might force surrender by the Board and the Government.

It is fashionable to deride Mr Scargill's generalship—and with good reason. He maladroitness arranged that the strike should be preceded by an overtime ban which, after four months, had already financially weakened his members. Scared of submitting his case to a national ballot (which he would almost certainly have won) he adopted his regional domino strategy, which got around the requirements of the rule book but undermined the legitimacy of the strike.

He wildly underestimated the amount of coal stocks, while overestimating the willingness of other workers to come to the aid of the miners. In pursuit of unconditional surrender, he failed to exploit the substantial concessions made by the Board, particularly in the settlement with the pit deputies' union, Nacods.

Now he shows no sign of being

The NUM selects its scapegoats

able to handle the consequences of all these failures and miscalculations. The advice, were he to seek it, of almost every experienced union leader to the country would be to put the best possible public relations gloss on the concessions made by the Board, to thank his members for the spirited support they have demonstrated for so long, to urge them to return to work with their pride and their dignity intact, and, for the sake of the future existence of the union, to put behind them the feuds and vendettas which his own tactics so tragically encouraged.

But while Mr Scargill may be a poor general, he is not by any means a fool. Having led his members to expect the impossible it is imperative, if he is to survive himself, to find a scapegoat for his defeat.

In his personal demography there are plenty of candidates: there is the media, there is Iain MacGregor, there is Mrs Thatcher. All have figured in his strike rhetoric, but, alas, none is quite satisfactory for the longer-term purpose.

In that perspective, the coal strike cannot be regarded as an isolated phenomenon. It must be part of the onward march towards Mr Scargill's style of socialism. It has to become part of the web of working class history, inspirational, instructional and enduring. The scapegoats must therefore be chosen from among the enemies without, who could not be expected to behave any less predictably, but the traitors within.

Throughout the coal dispute Mr Neil Kinnock has behaved like a man who knows he is on a hiding to nothing. Violence on the picket lines has ravaged Labour's standing in the opinion polls: Mr Kinnock has duly denounced violence, on the part of the police as well as the strikers, without earning high marks from anyone.

Mr Scargill's intransigence in negotiations made Mr Kinnock's support for the future of the mines and the mining communities sound almost intransigent: so Mr Kinnock set his colleague Mr Stanley Orme to work to find a compromise formula which would allow uneconomic pits to be closed. Mr Orme's semantics proved highly successful, but his efforts, founded on Mr Scargill's veto on any form of economic assessment of a pit's usefulness.

When Mr Scargill invited Mr Kinnock to attend his rallies, Mr Kinnock shrewdly found that his engagement book was full. Aware that this pushed his scapegoat rating even higher, he less shrewdly countered with an invitation to a rally organised by himself—good, if he was in isolated combat with the miners' leader, but bad from the point of view of

those of his supporters repelled by Mr Scargill's powers of manipulation.

Mr Kinnock is also aware that the more he distances himself from Mr Scargill, the angrier this makes Labour supporters in the constituencies. The Left may have its doubts about Mr Scargill, about his tactics, above all his ambitions, but support for the miners has become their touchstone, and Mr Kinnock wriggles at his peril.

What he lacks, of course, is the kind of praetorian guard which in industrial matters could once be guaranteed to defend a Labour leader. The major TUC unions, which are also affiliated to the Labour party, know what Mr Scargill is up to, but they have shied away from doing anything about it. What they are uncomfortably aware of is that they too, qualify as Mr Scargill's mind as scapegoats for the miners' defeat.

In their case there may be some justice in the charge. At the TUC congress in September the leaders of the trade union movement made promises to the miners that they must have known they could not keep. How easy now for the miners to claim that they were let down by the TUC just as their forefathers were in the aftermath of the General Strike in 1926.

There are worse things to life, though, than to be designated a scapegoat. The duty of the TUC to bring the strike to an orderly and dignified end, since Mr Scargill seems to have no idea of how to go about it, is becoming plainer each day.

IF they are to be scapegoats, let them at least be effective scapegoats. The TUC chairman, Mr Jack Eames, has already declared that the national union centre should take over the negotiations: since it is clear that the Board has gone as far as it possibly can to assuage the fears of the miners about their future, such a takeover would imply ending the strike, with it being made clear to the members of the NUM that there is a collective trade union loyalty higher than that accorded for so long to Mr Scargill.

At least that course, which has valid constitutional authority, would take some of the heat off Mr Kinnock. But the Labour movement—and particularly Mr Kinnock, Mr Eames, Mr Norman Willis and the TUC General Council, plus the working miners, the pit communities, the schoolchildren and the lorry drivers—had better resign themselves to their fate: singly or collectively, by omission or commission they have, in Mr Scargill's book, betrayed the miners—and, by extension, socialism as well.

Tory 'supergrass' finds misfortune

IAN GOW, the Housing Minister, may today ruefully reflect on the vicissitudes of political fortune.

Only a few months ago he was being confidently discussed as a leading contender for the post of Northern Ireland Secretary, and with it the place in Cabinet he has always coveted.

As a dry-as-dust Thatcherite he has always appeared to enjoy the Prime Minister's full confidence. Indeed, as her P.P.S., he gained the nickname "supergrass" among Tory M.P.s, for his reports back to No. 10.

But all that seems to have changed. Earlier this month Gow threatened to resign over a proposed £300 million of Housing cuts.

As a result at a highly-charged meeting with Mrs Thatcher just before Cabinet, she accused him of being a "socialist".

I gather that the Prime Minister would like to say: "Sometimes wonder if there are any Tories in the Party besides me."

Soviets cruise home
THE NATIONAL Union of Mineworkers is not the only political organisation in this country receiving substantial subsidies from the Soviet Union—Westminster Conservatives are also the recipients of "Red gold".

The second prize in the "Two Cities Ball" raffie held at the Grosvenor on Dec. 4 by Tories from Westminster and City Conservative associations this year happens to be a cruise for two to the Caribbean aboard the Soviet ship, Taras Shevchenko.

Conard and P&O who usually advertise in the ball programme, failed to contribute to this year's festivities in aid of Conservative party funds, so the Russian cruise company CTC Lines not only filled the breach but offered the holiday worth £5,000. This may cause considerable embarrassment to the British companies who have been complaining to the Government that their Russian counterparts are severely undercutting their business.

This week's *Wolton-under-Edge Gazette*, dealing with a visit to the Bristol Hippodrome by the Welsh National Opera, reports: "Next on the agenda is W.N.O.'s spell-binding production of Puccini's 'La Bohème', featuring forerunners like Rodolfo's 'Young Tim Head in Frocks' and Musetta's waltz song."

Story of a scoop...

IF ANY credit is due for the success of BBC Television News's scoop which alerted the world to the tragedy of the Ethiopian famine it should go to a Nairobi-based cameraman.

Mohammad Amin, the bureau chief, of the Visnews film agency in Kenya, first persuaded his organisation of the value of the story and then ope-

LONDON DAY BY DAY

ated permits to visit the country. He and the BBC cameraman Michael Buck eventually got to the famine area by hitching a lift on an airplane owned by an American charity, which gave up a day's shipment of grain to allow the crew to see the state of the starving victims.

The film team brought back has certainly brought the famine to the attention of the world, but the seven minutes the agency transmitted has been seen in 98 countries, including China and the Soviet Union and appeared on 600 channels in the United States alone.

...and near disaster

AN ITV camera crew recently recording a rare interview with the Queen, had the misfortune to suffer the heart-stopping moment every television technician dreads.

Halfway through the interview, with the Queen in full flow, the crew's camera packed up because of a flat battery.

Despite the sudden appearance of beads of sweat on his forehead the cameraman pretended that he was still filming while an assistant changed the battery. The soundman, whose equipment was independently powered also carried on as though nothing had happened.

As a result, when the TVS film, entitled *All the Queen's Hens*, is shown at Christmas only about a minute of vision will be lost and this I'm told will be edited to make the break indiscernible.

Chip off the old block

THE FIRST job to be undertaken by Michael Seys-Phillips, when he is installed next Thursday as the new master of the Glaziers Company will be to haul the rent for the Glaziers' Hall in Montague Close near London Bridge.

The hall is part of a building owned by the Co-operative Insurance Company and, in what has become a tradition since the firm took over the premises in 1978, the peppercorn rent is symbolised by a piece of glass.

Seys-Phillips, a London solicitor whose detailed knowledge of glasswork is questionable, has wisely refrained from raising his company's rent. Instead he has commissioned Alfred Fisher, an assistant to the court of the Glaziers Company, to create a plaque made from the finest piece of lead crystal produced in the last year of existence of the famous old Whittierians glassworks which, sadly, folded in 1980.

Souvenir of Russia

WHILE Neil Kinnock's Soviet hosts parade the "positive" side of Russian life before him, the Labour leader may just reflect on a plea from a reader published in the *SOVIETSKAYA KULTRA* newspaper.

The reader asks why Russian manufacturers "persist in putting buttons in certain places on trousers when the whole world switched to zips long ago; why foot-



"On the other hand you didn't actually have to hear Boy George."

wear looks as if it has been chopped into shape with an axe; why shoes pinch your feet as if made of wood yet fall to pieces after a week like cardboard; and why the Indian Olympic Mishka-beat souvenirs in 1984?"

There seems to be little love lost between the two Dadas, Steel and Owen, these days. The current edition of the party magazine, *Socialist*, is running a story headlined: "Poll shows S.D.P. ahead of Liberals in popularity stakes."

Forgotten forces
PRINCE PHILIP is to head a major fund-raising drive to help colonial veterans who fought for "King and Country" in the days of Empire but who are now forgotten or ignored in their newly independent lands.

Incredibly, there are still up to six million former colonial servicemen who fought with the Indian Army, the King's African Rifles and other proud regiments.

Colonel Guy Stocker, Secretary General of the British Commonwealth Service League, which will launch the appeal next year, tells me that many of the hardship cases among the old campaigners and their widows are distressing, with some third world countries actively hostile to these veterans.

One recent case was a Burmese woman found starving on the steps of a temple in Raagoon clutching only some medals. Her late husband turned out to have joined with the Oxfordshire Light Infantry in 1955.

I'm all right Jap
AUTOCAR magazine reports that Richard Friend, the sales director of Subaru U.K. for the past 10 months, has left the company "on amicable terms."

PETERBOROUGH

RELATIONSHIP WITH ARGENTINA

From Mr GEORGE ROBERTSON, M.P. (Lab.)

SIR—As a Member of Parliament who supported the sending of the task force to the Falklands two-and-a-half years ago, being in Buenos Aires in the last few days was a strange experience.

Riding in a mini-bus with the "Malvinas" sign on the front window, passing the "Malvinas Argentinhe" boardings on the roadside, brings one up short.

The sight of the battleship "Río de la Plata" on the plane of the new Air Force chief was a startling reminder to me of the moving funeral to my constituency of the young Hamilton paratrooper who fell at Goose Green.

Yet Argentina has changed, and so must we. We have forcibly to remind ourselves precisely why we scot that task force, why these young men died and what we owe their memory.

The sacrifice was not to fly a flag over Port Stanley, it was to re-assert the right of a free people to have their say and not be humiliated by an authoritarian dictatorship with a foul human rights record.

That objective can in the long run be guaranteed, not by gunboats and war planes 8,000 miles away from their proper role, but from a peaceful settlement based on a secure relationship with South Atlantic neighbours.

After meetings with the most senior Argentine Government officials yet to talk to British politicians, I am convinced that we must start moving soon to rebuild our relationship. The present drift is so damaging to Argentina, to us and to the continent of the Americas, that it is a deep lack of comprehension of respective views in all camps and that has contributed to the present diplomatic stalemate. Argentina fails to understand the genuine apprehensions of the islanders who still distrust the stability of Argentina's new democracy.

We have not yet grasped the fact of the fundamental change which has occurred in Argentina. The Generals have gone and many are on trial. The new elected President and Parliament are getting down to doing their mind-boggling economic and social problems.

The new rulers of Argentina have as brave and as prominent a record in fighting the Falkland adventures as the task force, and certainly the pre-

invasion Mrs Thatcher. Their chances of preserving a civilised democratic country would be immeasurably improved by the removal of the constant nationalistist upstaging over the "Malvinas".

While we drift, new forces will make a settlement less easy. Hardliners in Buenos Aires will gain in strength as economic restraints about to be imposed by the International Monetary Fund begin to bite. The present genuine desire to be flexible could also be inhibited by the swallowing of the Chile-advantaged Beagle Islands deal.

On our side continuing expenditure on Falklands breeds new habits and new vested interests in the status quo. Financial advantage will resist any change. On the military front the very necessity to be in the South Atlantic encourages long-term strategic temptations.

There is a stirring of radicalism in the new Latin America bred out of the poverty, hunger, the inequalities and the financial crisis, and that radicalism can provide unpredictable results. Remember Weimar Germany, if we dare.

Hongkong is often quoted in Buenos Aires as a precedent for a hand-over by Britain which we should emulate over the Falklands. It is a convenient but wholly erroneous conclusion, but some parallels are helpful.

In Hongkong Mrs Thatcher said the agreement must be acceptable to the people—but the people of Hongkong were well prepared in advance for the likely outcome. That could be the case in the Falklands too. We could start talking at parliamentary, academic and journalist level about forms of solution to the status of the Falklands: lease-back, joint sovereignty, trusteeship, guarantees, etc. The continuation of Argentine democracy; all should be a matter of debate and the debate alone will reduce the tensions.

Hostilities which still exist technically, despite the British presence, denunciation of the use of force, must be rapidly lifted along with the exclusion zone. Visa restrictions can be eased, direct travel reinstated, fishermen allowed back to their old grounds.

We are the only thing, both nations and the islanders must start, looking for signals and reading them correctly, without suspicion.

GEORGE ROBERTSON

Dep. Opposition spokesman, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, House of Commons.

Political debate and the youth workers

SIR—While agreeing with Mr James Anderson's comments (report, Nov. 15) on the dangers of political indoctrination by youth workers, the YMCA, one of the country's largest voluntary youth organisations, would like to stress the importance of tolerance among younger and older alike and of building bridges at a time when confrontation is on the increase.

The majority of youth workers encourage the development of citizens who can contribute to political debate without it causing confrontation or prejudice. To ignore this responsibility is to fail in our jobs as youth workers.

The YMCA has worked closely with Mr James Anderson and the Greater Manchester Police in developing programmes to help build bridges between the local community and their police, to promote greater understanding and reduce tension.

After the 1981 Mass Side riots in Manchester the YMCA started operating outdoor education courses for underprivileged young people from inner city areas and their local police. These have proved highly successful and have begun to contribute to the long process of improving relations in tense urban areas. To maintain a responsible, stable, society we must encourage tolerance and understanding at all levels and on all sides, be it in the streets, in the community, or via the media.

C. JOHN NAYLOR
Nat. Sec. YMCA
London, E.17.

The immobility net

SIR—Mr John Raven (article, Nov. 21) has some ingenious ideas for the coal industry. Is he not being a little too logical and logic is not the miners' strong suit?

Yes, somewhere out there, there is probably still a viable coal industry. And there are probably jobs in it for all the miners who choose to return to work, although recruitment of young men would presumably have to be cut back. But the jobs will not be where the present miners live.

This has been the problem for years. The miner likes his village, in the way the prisoner is said to come to love his chains. The fact that the men are trickling back to work does not mean that they have accepted the logic of the need to become mobile.

They are not the only British workers caught in a net of immobility: decades of rent restriction and distorted council rent policy have led to that.

We shall never "create jobs" until we break that immobility net. The danger is that yet again, the miners will be treated as a special case, and there will be temptation to offer them special financial inducements to move to where the jobs are. Do they deserve special treatment?

J. T. MUNNION
Carshalton, Surrey.

Liberation backlash

SIR—I read with interest your report (Nov. 15) that a wolf and other animals were released from a Scottish wildlife park by animal rights campaigners.

Perhaps these people would like to know the fate of the swan which has been resident at my parents' estate, not far from the park, for some time. Charlie defied all the laws by playing with the dog, accepting food at the back door, and bringing his family on to the terrace for our inspection. My father found him the other morning decapitated and disembowelled by a fox. If they are so concerned about animals, the liberationists might consider the rarer species living in the countryside before they release predators among them.

(Mrs) I. M. GLASS
Cambridge.

In search of scissors

SIR—I recently went into a well-known multiple store to buy a pair of kitchen scissors. Most of those on show were of Japanese origin. The best ones bore the name of an English firm which is an household name for cutting tools. The scissors were made in Finland. What on earth do they do in Sheffield now—apart from playing politics?

How can one buy British if we do not make the tools sold by British firms?

(Dr) M. E. HUGHES
Lusleigh, Devon.

Historical parallel with the 1914 situation

SIR—The controversy raised by the letters of Dr R. E. Dawson (Nov. 15) and Mr John Tervane (Nov. 21) is very instructive in the one and it suggests that the First World War was caused by an arms race that ran out of control. On the other it is argued that the Second World War was brought about by the disarmament movement of the 1930s, which led Hitler to believe that he could achieve his aims by force.

Both arguments are correct. The problem today is to avoid the two very different mistakes that were made before the First World War and the Second, in order to prevent a Third.

It is the situation before 1914 that forms the closer historical parallel. German policy then (as Western policy today) was dominated by the fear of Russia. "The Great Programme" of Russian rearmament so terrified German strategists that they resolved upon a "preventive war" (for which Serbia is 1914 was the pretext).

The build-up of German weaponry struck equal terror into the hearts of British and French politicians. The resulting arms race was fuelled by a deluded belief in the "deterrent" effect of modern military technology (Dreadnoughts then, Trident submarines now).

It is the apparently unstoppable momentum of military escalation which drives people towards the opposite extreme of unconditional disarmament. But there is a middle way. It lies in arms control agreements based on a real willingness to make concessions. The strength of the Western position means that we should be able to take the first step, for example, a moratorium on the further development of cruise missiles.

It takes courage to conclude a political agreement with your ideological enemies. But conservative politicians enjoying strong popular support have sometimes found the courage needed to take unpopular decisions (de Gaulle's settlement with Algeria).

President Reagan will have earned the undying gratitude of mankind if he can overcome his own prejudices, curb the hawks in his own administration, and conclude an arms control agreement with the Soviet Union before it is too late.

EDWARD TIMMS
Gouville and Calos College, Cambridge.

On the record

SIR—Under the heading "The Old Lie About War" (Nov. 15), Dr R. E. Dawson perpetrates two old canards concerning the two world wars.

The first is that the soldiers in the 1914 war were led to be slaughtered by officers regarded as dopers. This is patently untrue. The junior officers, i.e. those who formed the great majority of the officer corps and who did the leading on the ground, shared their men's agony, risk and discomfort to a considerable degree and were leading Sassoon, Graves, and countless other diaries and letters in regimental museum archives can attest in.

The second more serious assumption is that war has to be avoided at all costs. At what cost? In Java, Poles and many other occupied nations might have avoided war in 1939? As so often in this world we frequently have to choose between two greys rather than straight black and white.

DAVID DOWNE
Major,
Director, West Midlands
Area Museum Service,
Bromsgrove, Worcs.

Wind power

SIR—Mr Rodney Atkinson's letter (Nov. 20) headed "Energy and Market Disciplines" calls for comment.

I was engaged for five years in a hydro-electric project, now part of the Pacific Gas and Electric Co., California. According to its 1983 report "the company leads the nation's utilities in wind-power generation. It has 155,000 kilowatts of capacity already connected to its system and has contracts for 40,000 kilowatts more."

The wind-power is supplied by large number of windmills generating power enterprise which benefit by private co-ownership. Together with pumped storage or hydro-power they will in no cost for energy so that fossil fuels are no longer used by the company. This suggestion could apply to Scotland.

G. R. FALKNER NUTTALL
Richmond, Surrey.

interest in Sunrie Clothes, which ended at 65p for a two-advance of .18. House of Fra were 4 easier at 302p, after 29 on the boardroom development.

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CURIST RATES | | | |--------|----------| | 142 | dollars | | 75-00 | francs | | 812 | francs | | 18 | francs | | 71 | markkas | | 116 | francs | | 66 | marks | | 164-00 | dachmae | | 10 | goldiers | | 41-00 | kronee | | 1875 | penn | | 680-00 | shickel | | 2270 | flrs | | 300 | yen | | 240-00 | pounds | | 45 | dollars | | 10-66 | kronee | | 200 | excedes | | 42-17 | mark | | 905-00 | pepetal | | 10 | kronee | | 31 | franes | | 200-00 | flrs | | 1223 | dollars | | 276-00 | aliam | Indicate approximate current market rates for sterling in Britain. Subject to limit.

1540	30-47-32-32	34
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1800	30-47-32-32	60
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1910	30-47-32-32	71
1920	30-47-32-32	72
1930	30-47-32-32	73
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2100	30-47-32-32	90
2110	30-47-32-32	91
2120	30-47-32-32	92
2130	30-47-32-32	93
2140	30-47-32-32	94
2150	30-47-32-32	95
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2170	30-47-32-32	97
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INVESTMENT & BUSINESS

City Editor
Andreas Whittam Smith

Daily Telegraph
City Office
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London EC4A 4BS
Tel: 01-353 4242

Boots climbs to £79.9m

HELPED by a favourable review of labour and overhead costs on its dispensing business, Boots increased its profits for the half year to £9.3m, from £5.1m to £7.9m before tax.

For the second half, Boots is expecting a continuing profit improvement, although the rate of increase is likely to be less.

The interim dividend is lifted from 5p to 2.5p a share payable Jan. 11.

Boots has agreed to acquire 95 p.c. of the equity of a Munich-based pharmaceutical company, Knoll Arzneimittel.

BPCC change

BRITISH Printing and Communications Corporation has dropped plans to offer a convertible stock alternative to its 500p a share offer for John Waddington.

The formal cash offer discloses that the offer period will not be extended beyond the first closing date Dec. 15, unless the bid has been declared unconditional by then.

Kier tops £6m

BUILDING and contracting group French Kier has increased interim pre-tax profits from £5.65m to £6.32m in the six months to June 30, from £4.5m to £5.1m.

The interim dividend is to be raised from 1.5p net to 1.55p, payable Dec. 31.

Sedgwick sale

IN ACCORDANCE with the divestment requirements in the Lloyd's Act 1982, Sedgwick Group is selling its 58 p.c. interest in Edwards & Payne. (Underwriting Agents) to Sturge Holdings, for £4.5m.

Just under £4m of the price paid by Sturge, one of the largest independent groups of underwriting agents at Lloyd's, will be cash, the rest in Sturge Ordinary shares.

Edwards & Payne is forecasting a pre-tax profit of about £1.3m in the current year.

EMAP peak

MAJOR improvements in publishing operations have helped East Midlands Allied Press push opening half pre-tax profits on from £3.1m to a record £3.94m.

It is expected second-half profits to be comfortably ahead of last time's £3.63m.

The interim is 0.82p to 10p on Jan. 4 from earnings of 2.5p (2.5p).

U.S. holiday

UNITED STATES banks and markets were closed yesterday for Thanksgiving Day.

costs for the new magazine press and administrative expenses and interest charges associated with two acquisitions. All have been written off against profits.

It is expected second-half profits to be comfortably ahead of last time's £3.63m.

The interim is 0.82p to 10p on Jan. 4 from earnings of 2.5p (2.5p).

Extel's U.S. loss

A LOSS in the United States by Digital Microsystems due to sales and management problems and a £244,000 increase in the interest charge to £221,000, has restricted Extel Group's pre-tax profit growth in the opening half.

Turnover was £13.5m to £13.5m, but the rise in pre-tax profits is just £36,000 to £52,000.

The interim is 1.3p (equal same) on 3.7m from earnings of 0.5p (equal to 7.2p).

Duffryn falls

THE MINERS' strike, as chairman Viscount Sandon warned in August, has hit Powell Duffryn with the shipping side swinging from a £1.7m trading profit to a £349,000 loss in the opening half and the group's pre-tax profit back from £6.55m to £5.65m.

The interim is again 5p, payable Jan. 7.

Merrydown ahead

MERRYDOWN Wine profits growth continues with the first half pre-tax profit on by just over 50 p.c. from £363,000 to £553,000 on a 7 p.c. turnover rise to £1.12m.

The interim is 1.2p (equal to 0.8p) payable Jan. 7.

WORLD MARKETS

AMSTERDAM (ANF) 174.40 - 0.60	BRUSSELS (ANF) 156.56 + 0.32	FRANKFURT (ANF) 1,082.30 + 6.50	HONGKONG (Hansong) 1,087.81 + 3.46	PARIS (ANF) 1,080.00 - 0.10	STOXY (ANF) 772.70 - 1.60	TOKYO (ANF) 11,207.70 - 42.09	ZURICH (Credit Suisse) 312.90 + 0.60
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FT—ACTUARIES INDICES

Industrial Group 558.72 (-2.24)	"500" 599.31 (-4.38)	All-Share 550.04 (-2.85)
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International Stores sold to Dee for £180m

By JOHN RUDOLPH

HIGHLY ambitious Alor Monk, chairman of Dee Corporation, yesterday pulled off his biggest deal yet, agreeing to pay £180 million to BAT Industries for its 380-strong chain of International Stores.

The move doubles the number of Dee's stores which trade predominantly under the Gateway name and almost doubles selling space. Dee jumps above James Gulliver's Argill Group.

To pay for the deal it still must clear certain hurdles, notably the Office of Fair Trading, the group's brokers, Row & Pitman undertook by far the biggest vendor share placing since 1950 institutional buyers were found for 115 million new Dee shares at 160p.

The placing price was an 8p.c. discount on the overnight price but the news eventually left the shares 8p higher to 185p.

BAT Industries chairman Patrick Sheehy said his group decided to concentrate on food retailing. That means the Argos catalogue showrooms operation in this country along with the newly-launched Jewellers Guild. In North America, BAT's covers Saks Fifth Avenue and Marshall Field's with Herten in West Germany.

BAT's name is frequently linked by market speculators to almost every retailing takeover mooded. Asked whether BAT was planning to bid for Dixons and Currys if that takeover goes through, finance director Tom Loog said: "We never comment on market rumours."

Mr Monk approached BAT's three week ago. After several years of losses International

THE Federal Reserve Board's overnight decision to cut the United States discount rate to 8½ p.c. got the Bank of England and the three clearing banks who held their base rates on Monday off the hook yesterday.

National Westminster was the first to seize the fresh opportunity to cut British interest rates with a ½ p.c. cut in base rate to 9½ p.c. and a similar reduction in seven-day deposit rate to 6½ p.c.

Lloyds Bank followed with identical moves and by midday Midland had also cut its rates by ½ p.c., fixing base rate at 9½ p.c. and the seven-day money rate at 6 p.c.

The Bank of England duly lowered its dealing rates in the London discount market by a further ½ p.c., making ½ p.c. on the week, in line with yesterday's base rate changes. Barclays Bank, which began the latest move with a tentative ½ p.c. on Monday, held its hand yesterday, but the smaller banks aligned with the majority on 9½ p.c. last night.

The American move was very timely because the sudden drop in sterling this week had otherwise made a cut in base rates look somewhat risky, and money market rates had edged higher rather than lower since Barclays made its move.

Philip Wilkinson, NatWest's chief executive, was being a bit glib yesterday when he said: "Continuing favourable movements in the money markets have enabled us to announce a further reduction in our base rates."

In the event sterling opened a shade firmer on the American discount rate cut, eased back again when the clearers jumped in with base rate cuts, and wobbled on the trade figures but still ended the day just 10 points higher on balance at \$1.2275.

Interest rates in the London money market eased only a shade when dealings began, and then relaxed a little more when the Bank of England signalled its approval of the NatWest move, but three-month money in the inter-bank market closed only about ½ p.c. lower on the day at 9½-9¾ p.c.

That rate is quite compatible with base rates at 9½ p.c., begin within the ½ p.c. tolerance the banks and the market can live with. But Barclays can equally justify their more cautious view

CITY COMMENT

UK clearers are yanked into line on base rates

if they choose and cynics may still conclude the banks have been a little obvious in timing their latest cuts to provide "support" for the British Telecom issue — which it patently does not need to ensure its success.

Lloyds Bank, meanwhile, is helping put more pressure on mortgage rates, cutting its cheapest rate to 11½ p.c. and a true rate of 12.5 p.c., which makes it now one of the most competitive.

Fed uneasy about economy

IN AN unusually laconic accompanying statement the Fed said it acted "against the background of growth in M1 and M2 in the lower part of the desired (money target) ranges and in the context of distinct moderation in the pace of business expansion, of relative stability in producer and commodity prices in recent months, of the restrained trend of wages and costs, and of the continued strength of the dollar internationally."

The Fed's move followed news that the economy grew by less than 2 p.c. in the third quarter, a dramatic slowdown from the break-neck expansion of 7 p.c. in the second quarter and 10 p.c. in the first, with every sign that the fourth quarter will be equally sluggish.

The discount rate cut is likely to be followed shortly by reductions in American banks' prime interest rates.

It is possible to overdo the gloom, however. Recent recoveries have typically paused for breath after the first vigorous phase of growth. While this pause is rather more

severe than most, the initial pace of expansion was also more rapid. None of the signs of overeating which typically precede a recession — capacity constraints, labour shortages, a pick-up in inflation — are present. In short, there is still room for the American economy to grow.

The big negative is the huge trade deficit — swollen by the overblown level of the dollar — which is siphoning off demand nearly as fast as the Federal budget deficit is pumping it in.

But most economists expect renewed domestic demand to outweigh the import drain for most of next year before recession sets in late in 1982, giving growth of 3 to 5 p.c. for the year as a whole.

The Fed is likely to maintain its easier stance as long as the current slowdown persists. This is not simply to give the economy a short-term boost. Mr Volcker, Fed chairman, knows only too well that Congress is even less likely to do anything substantive about the budget deficit in the coming year because over-tight money is suppressing growth.

Enthusiasm for export bank

NEWS THAT Mr Lawson, the Chancellor, may be prepared to sponsor the creation of a private sector export bank had the City brimming over with enthusiasm yesterday, even though there were some doubts about whether the scheme will ever get off the ground.

The verdict among top bankers is that the idea deserves to be taken seriously as Britain is one of

the very few major industrialised countries which does not already have an institution devoted to financing long-term export projects.

The text book examples of countries which do are America, with its Export-Import Bank, and Japan with its own institution of the same name. Then there is the Export Development Corporation of Canada and the French equivalent, Banque Française de Commerce Extérieur.

The British are just as active as their main industrial rivals in providing financial support for exports. Here the British do it differently. Here the money is lent direct to foreign buyers of British goods by individual banks instead of through a centralised institution. The banks lend with the backing of the Export Credits Guarantee Department, the arm of Government which provides insurance cover for British exporters.

According to ECGD figures, banks in Britain have a total of £11.5 billion on loan to foreign buyers of British goods, most of them in the form of medium-term credits. Roughly half the total has been lent in sterling, the rest in foreign currencies, mainly dollars.

There is thus little evidence to suggest that British exports have been at a disadvantage in spite of the absence in Britain of an export bank. Britain's big high street banks estimate that between them they have £6 billion on loan under ECGD's fixed rate export financing scheme.

A new institution could, however, play a useful role even if it does not supplant the existing system of export financing altogether. A key function would be to increase the total availability of export finance by raising funds on international capital markets. Banks say there may also be some specialist gaps in the present system which could usefully be filled.

One problem is the Government's clear insistence that any new export bank be a private sector affair. This is a strict requirement as export banks everywhere else tend to be Government owned. Creating a private institution strong enough to raise runs on competitive terms to international capital markets could be a major challenge for the City.



WHETHER you are widowed, retired or unemployed, your State benefits will be increased on Monday. Family Money-Go-Round looks at who is going to

WHOSE mortgages are cheapest, now that housebuyers have the chance to shop around? Saturday's City pages compare the best buy for cash, and highlights the best buy.

We look at how the Government can help small shopkeepers and other businesses — and how they can hinder their progress.

JOIN in The Daily Telegraph's "Last Pound" competition. Our prizes are waiting for readers with lucky numbers, and we guarantee a winner by the year-end. Find out how to play to tomorrow's paper.

ON Saturday Scrutineer looks at some unusual activity involving the board of a quoted company and finds out how another company can break some very unexpected news.

DTI vets nine 'inside dealings'

STOCK EXCHANGE chairman Sir Nicholas Goodison confirmed yesterday in his semi-annual statement to members that an extraordinary meeting will be held next year in order to approve constitutional changes ahead of the "big bang" dismantling of main-market commissions.

The regular half-yearly informal meeting of members will take place next Wednesday to discuss recent events and the interim financial position. That shows a pre-tax profit of £2.3 million, against £5.1 million in the corresponding period.

Over the six months, the Stock Exchange quotations department investigated 27 possible cases of insider dealing, with the result that nine cases were passed to the Department of Trade and Industry.

On the matter of the new membership rules, which are anxiously awaited by those firms who have already entered into potential merger arrangements with outside bodies, the statement says that the proposals will be in members' hands by next January.

Oil prices drift near crisis levels

OIL PRICES weakened again on the Rotterdam spot market yesterday, falling close to the crisis levels which hit sterling in July.

Crude from the Brent Field of Shell-Eso in the North Sea was quoted at only £27.50 a barrel for delivery in January. This was 15 cents down on the previous day and compares with the official price of £30.65 a barrel.

Mild weather and continuing over-production despite efforts of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to restrict output is undermining prices just when they would normally be rising ahead of winter.

Rowland quits Fraser board

By BARBARA CONWAY

CONTINUING a long-established trend of confounding expectations, Lorrho chief executive, Lord Duncan-Sandys, to resign from the board of Fraser just as the board was bracing itself to call an extraordinary meeting to remove them.

Following a board meeting of Fraser, the company made a brief announcement that the two Lorrho representatives would be resigning with effect from December 31.

Both sides had agreed not to expand on that statement, as there was no explanation for giving that resignation date rather than either stepping

Motor trade deficit falls

A balance-of-trade deficit of £1,910 million for the first nine months of the year is shown by the motor industry. But it is £100 million less than a year earlier.

Exports totalled £2,250 million, of which cars contributed £711 million, goods vehicles £255 million and parts, accessories and other products £224 million.

Corresponding figures for imports were £3,140 million (£2,815 million; £475 million and £1,852 million).

In the nine months, exports increased in value by 10 p.c. while imports rose by only 4 p.c., said the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

NatWest announces that with effect from Friday, 23rd November, 1984, its Base Rate is decreased from 10% to 9½% per annum.

The basic Deposit and Savings Account rates are decreased from 6¾% to 6¼% per annum.

41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP

NEW INTEREST RATES FROM 23rd NOV 1984

	INTEREST	NET	GROSS
HIGH OPTION TERM SHARES	8.50	12.14	
8th ISSUE SOVEREIGN SHARES	8.25	11.79	
MONEY MASTER ACCOUNT	8.00	11.43	
INVESTING SHARES	7.00	10.00	
PREFERENCE SHARES	6.75	9.64	
PERSONAL DEPOSITS	6.50	9.29	
CORPORATE DEPOSITS	6.00	8.57	

Rates of interest on all other Share and Deposit Accounts including previous issues of Term Shares and High Option Term Shares, will be reduced by 1.00% per annum.

Notice is given that the differential paid on previous issues of Sovereign Shares will be reduced to 1.50% in accordance with the terms of individual contracts. SAYE accounts remain unchanged.

The gross rates shown assume income tax paid at the basic rate of 30%.

MORTGAGES

The specified rate of interest charged on existing Mortgages will be reduced by 1% on 1st Dec 1984 or 1st Jan 1985 in accordance with the terms of the mortgage contract.

Universal BUILDING SOCIETY

41 Pilgrim St., Newcastle upon Tyne. Tel. 0632 320973

Coutts & Co. announce that their Base Rate is reduced from 10% to 9½% per annum with effect from the 23rd November 1984 until further notice.

The Deposit Rate on monies subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal is reduced from 6¾% to 6¼% per annum.

HOLMESDALE BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY

43 Church Street, Rugeley, Staffs RH2 0AE (Tel: 45716)

NEW INTEREST RATES 1st DECEMBER 1984

	INTEREST	NET	GROSS
SHARER ACCOUNTS	7.00%	10.00%	
MONTHLY INCOME SHARES	8.00%	11.43%	
TRUST SHARES	8.25%	11.79%	
BENEFIT SHARES	8.75%	12.30%	
SPECIAL SHARES	8.50%	12.14%	

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COMPANIES

Burnett interim pleases market

A MAINTAINED 4p net interim dividend of Burnett & Hallamshire was enough yesterday to push the group's shares 5p higher at 150p despite interim pre-tax profits down again—this time from £4.9 million to £2.4 million.

The country's biggest private coal producer is suffering from the miners' strike. Only one of its "Rexco" plants is open and the company has no NCB mine waste to re-process.

On the other hand, its fuel transportation business and coal importing side has gained. The South African side is at last back in profits.

Elsewhere, Californian property developments are being scaled down which in the short term will have little effect on profits but will balance-sheet gearing. For the long-term future, the group has high hopes to develop a major Northern Ireland "brown coal" find.

Gieves

THE lower pre-tax profits that Gieves Group anticipated this time because of expansion plans have materialised with the first half out-turn down from £407,000 to £270,000, reducing earnings by 1p to 2.7p.

Moreover, the group now feels that full year profits will be down on the £1m target indicated in the accounts for 1985-86 which were £2.2m. This does not affect the intention to effectively increase the dividend total at 2.5p and there is a 1p equal to 0.75p interim on Dec 22.

Tricentrol

TRICENTROL's third quarter has produced a net profit of £10.2m against £7.5m in spite of a swing from a petroleum revenue tax credit of £200,000 to a £2.2m charge. This gives the group £21.5m (£16.1m) at 11p a share, month mark and earnings of 25.2p (19.1p).

Below the line there is an extraordinary charge of £50.9m relating to a loss on sale of certain United States assets and a deferred tax credit. In the quarter British oil and gas profits rose 21.9m to £11.2m.

IN BRIEF

Flogas: Interim dividend brought forward to 11p (10.8p) payable Dec 22.

M.M.T. Computing: Full year pre-tax profit £55,000 (£201,000). Turnover £1.35m (£1.94m). EPS 4.4p (£15.2p). Final dividend 2.25p making 2.25p (1.68p). Forward orders good.

Cement Roadstone Holdings: Second interim dividend of 1.7p, payable Dec 31, making 2.7p (2.43p).

Thomas Locker (Holdings): First half profit £1.1m (£1.85m). EPS 1.2p (£1.05p). Extraordinary dividend charge £433,000 (nil) due to estimated costs of moving performing plant from Greenwich to Warrington, thus rationalising all groups' British performing in one location. Int div 0.35p (same), pay Jan 2. Order books up—second half profits should top 1.2p (£1.43p).

United Computer and Technology Holdings: First half profit £55,000 (£131,000). Dividends and interest received £94,000 (£110,000). EPS 1.2p (£2p). NAV 135p (£160p). As usual, revenue available for ordinary shareholders £230,400 after tax of £230,500 (£170,100). EPS 2.3p (£2.3p). Nav, prior charges par, 172.5p (equal to 147.2p). Final dividend 1.4p, payable Jan 17, making 2.35p (equal to 2.1p).

RTD Group: First half profit, pre-exceptional items and tax, £5,000 (loss £55,000). Exceptional charge re B.M.G. Engineering £87,000 (nil). Turnover £5.4m (£5.08m). Again no interim dividend.

Significant improvement in trading and financial position.

Warfield Investments: First half profit £1.1m (£1.1m). Turnover £1.1m (£1.1m). EPS 1.1p (£1.1p). Int div 0.5p (0.5p), pay April 12.

Feeder Agricultural Industries: First half profit £1.1m (£1.1m). Turnover £1.1m (£1.1m). EPS 1.1p (£1.1p). Int div 0.5p (0.5p), pay April 12.

Futurum Investment Trust: Full year profit £1.1m (£1.1m). Turnover £1.1m (£1.1m). EPS 1.1p (£1.1p). Int div 0.5p (0.5p), pay April 12.

Hunter Saphir: First half profit £1.1m (£1.1m). Turnover £1.1m (£1.1m). EPS 1.1p (£1.1p). Int div 0.5p (0.5p), pay April 12.

Hilsons Brewery: Full year profit £1.1m (£1.1m). Turnover £1.1m (£1.1m). EPS 1.1p (£1.1p). Int div 0.5p (0.5p), pay April 12.

Walker & Staff Holdings: First half profit £1.1m (£1.1m). Turnover £1.1m (£1.1m). EPS 1.1p (£1.1p). Int div 0.5p (0.5p), pay April 12.

S. & U. Stores: First half profit £1.1m (£1.1m). Turnover £1.1m (£1.1m). EPS 1.1p (£1.1p). Int div 0.5p (0.5p), pay April 12.

General Stockholders Investment Trust: Full year profit £1.1m (£1.1m). Turnover £1.1m (£1.1m). EPS 1.1p (£1.1p). Int div 0.5p (0.5p), pay April 12.

W. & A. Stores: First half profit £1.1m (£1.1m). Turnover £1.1m (£1.1m). EPS 1.1p (£1.1p). Int div 0.5p (0.5p), pay April 12.

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THE QUESTOR COLUMN

No extra time in Waddington game

WHAT a cheek, British Printing & Communications Corporation fights shy of making a profit forecast for itself but is quite happy to project a "best estimate" of profits for its intended takeover victim, John Waddington.

A forecast from BPCC would not, to be fair, be especially valuable to Waddington shareholders as they are being offered only cash. BPCC has dropped its plans for a convertible loan stock alternative because of the recent weakness of BPCC shares.

That weakness was not, furthermore, without foundation. BPCC's printing division has met with "teething troubles" in bringing up major new items of equipment into full production.

A profits shortfall there will be outweighed by substantially increased property profits, says BPCC, confirming that the full year will see a figure "very substantially" in excess of the £22 million of 1983.

BPCC reckons Waddington will make around £5.5 million, which would also represent a very substantial increase on 1983-84 profits, although one would never guess so from the tone of the BPCC letter.

In passing, BPCC also sakes the Waddington chairman but lets shareholders know that the managing director can stay on — although he may have other ideas himself, having worked within the BPCC group in the past.

Waddington claims that BPCC never tried to reach agreement on terms but, since the Waddington share price at 55p, is already 55p ahead of the 500p BPCC cash offer, talks would obviously have been futile to both sides.

BPCC at least plans to

make the coming takeover battle short, even if it is going to be bloody. It will not be extending the bid beyond the first closing date on December 15, which by implication means that if it plans to increase it the uplift will have to come within the next week.

Waddington is prepared to play the game and produce interim results within the next week or so. Until then shareholders should either stay put or sell in the market.

Boots rates a hold tag

NO LONGER is Boots the dowdy dowager of the high street. In the half year to September 30, 1984, its retail business has seen better growth than either Sear's Holdings or Marks and Spencer and is going great guns for Christmas.

Group pre-tax profits of £79.8 million for the opening period, up 22.7 p.c. from the £65.1 million a year earlier, are helpfully bolstered by adjustments to discounts and costs allowed by the National Health Service. But they are sufficient to point to turnover profits of around £115 million against £148 million last time.

All the running is being made at the retail level. The latest figures include a £5.8 million NHS benefit, against a £6.1 million charge in the comparable period. Stripping that out knocks the retail profit growth back from an astounding 71.4 p.c. to a still impressive 14.4 p.c.

Gross margins have widened again and the volume of over-the-counter sales was up by 5.8 p.c.

Boots has at last come up

with new retailing ideas which are paying off. The cookshops are going very well, the food centre operation (concentrating on healthy and nutritious items) is being put onto a national basis and optical services has found an under-exploited market niche.

But while the retailing side is seeing healthy and nutritious margins, the industrial division is suffering a squeeze which, leaving aside exchange gains, has meant standstill profits in the first half.

The United States saw double profits but that was before the outbreak of the ill-fated price war. Fortunately this is restricted to the prescription strengths, and the over-the-counter versions, Advil in the United States and Narfen in the United Kingdom, are gaining market share.

But nevertheless, standstill second-half profits on the industrial side are the best hope.

International ambitions will be furthered by the latest acquisition, which gives Boots full distribution and marketing capability in Germany, and North American acquisitions are still being sought.

Meanwhile, the shares, at 204p, have had a good run and responded to profit-taking yesterday. They rank a hold tag on a price-earnings ratio of 14 times, but should be bought on weakness.

French Kier under a cloud

FOR a contracting company to keep profits moving ahead these days is an achievement in itself and French Kier can take a

how for producing interim pre-tax profits to June 30 up from £5.63 million to £6.32 million pre-tax.

The question remains, though, about how long this can last. The company has implied that the second six months will maintain the first-half improvement, but at the same time it warns of the difficulties being encountered both in the United Kingdom and overseas.

The civil engineering market in the United Kingdom has virtually collapsed over the last year or so, and French Kier, which is 80 p.c. involved in contracting, has already felt the pinch.

This is demonstrated by the first-half drop in pre-tax profits from Europe — largely the United Kingdom — from £2.98 million to £1.58 million. This has been offset by a strong overseas performance which saw profits leap from £1.41 million to £5.24 million. This was achieved on lower turnover and, on the group's own admission, owes a good deal to the

"higher incidence of contract completions."

Current order books are lower than this time last year with the United Kingdom down from £210 million to £201 million and overseas down from £80 million to £74 million. This must cast a cloud over medium-term growth prospects.

In the shorter term the group's liquidity will stand in good stead. Cash balances are standing at around £35 million and the increase in interest receivable this year should be enough to help profits up to around £16 million against £14.5 million pre-tax.

The cash balances should also allow it to come through what threatens to be a very tough period in better shape than most of its rivals. But its shares, at 150p, are on a prospective earnings multiple of six, and overseas earnings which are dependent on a discount to the prospective sector average of seven times earnings for some time ahead.

The Lombard 14 Days Notice Deposit Rate is

9.7%

per annum

Minimum deposit £2,500

Lombard North Central

The Lombard Cheque Savings Rates are

9.3% | **7.3%**

per annum

When the balance is £2,500 and over

When the balance is £250 and over

Lombard North Central

MONEY & EXCHANGES

STERLING held up well against a slightly weaker dollar yesterday but lost ground to major continental currencies on oil price fears and news of cuts in British bank base rates.

By the close, the pound was up from \$2.265 to \$1.275, its inter-

national value was also steady at 153.1, despite losses against the Deutsche mark.

National Westminster led the way with a cut from 10 p.c. to 8.5 p.c. in its base lending rate. The Bank of England adjusted its own dealing rates to reflect the base rate cuts later in the day.

THE POUND ABROAD

22-11-84	Prev. close
Austria... 13.92-98	96.00-11
Belgium... 13.92-98	96.00-11
Canada... 1.140-1.170	1.171-1.180
France... 1.130-1.170	1.171-1.180
Germany... 1.130-1.170	1.171-1.180
Holland... 1.130-1.170	1.171-1.180
Ireland... 1.130-1.170	1.171-1.180
Italy... 1.130-1.170	1.171-1.180
Japan... 1.130-1.170	1.171-1.180
Portugal... 1.130-1.170	1.171-1.180
Spain... 1.130-1.170	1.171-1.180
Sweden... 1.130-1.170	1.171-1.180
Switzerland... 1.130-1.170	1.171-1.180
U.K. Dollar... 1.265-1.275	1.265-1.275

Effective Sterling Exchange Rate Index (NOON 75-4 1974-8) (1974-8 = 100)

(Base 1975 = 100)

OTHER MARKET RATES

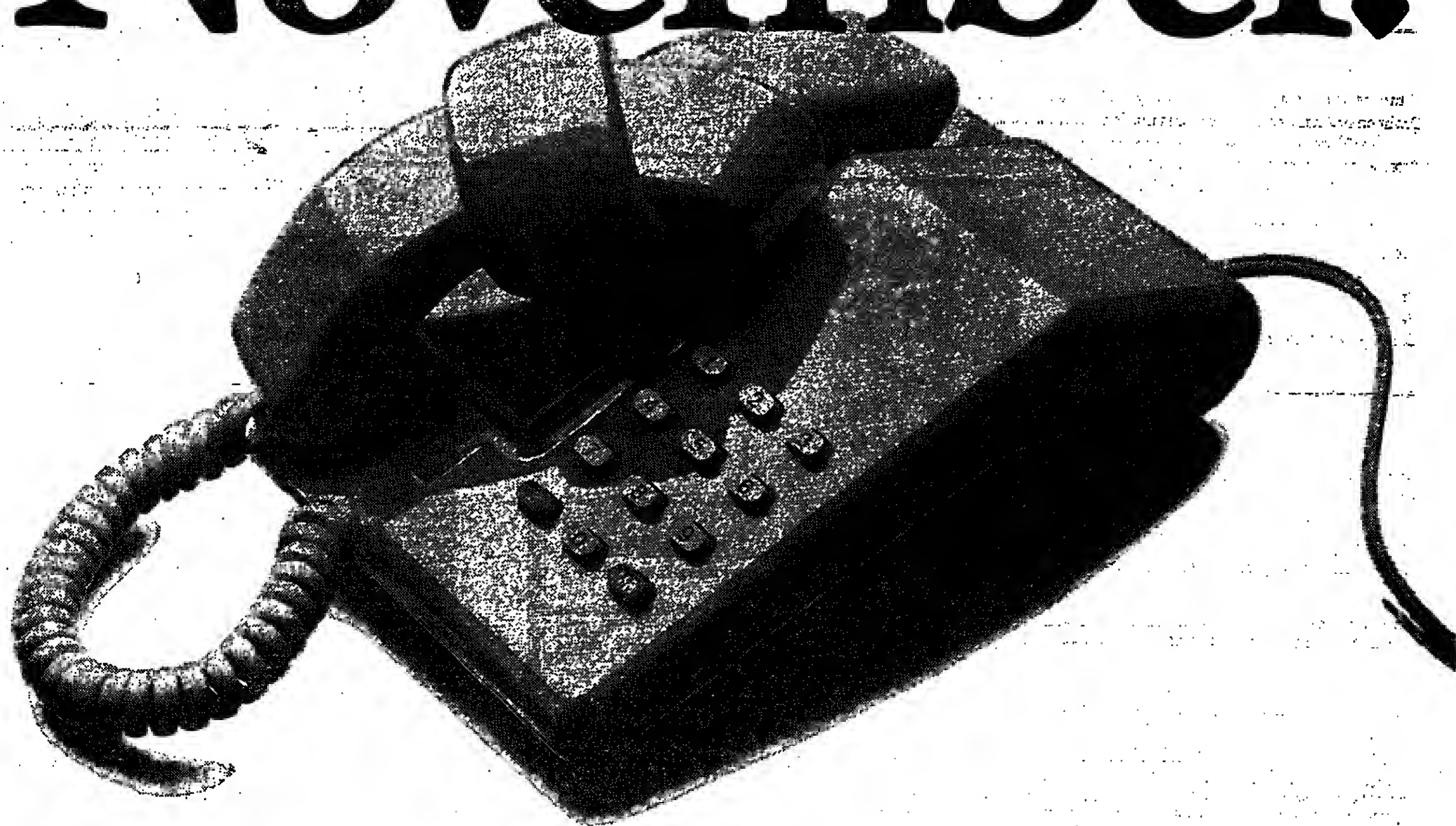
Argentina... Peso 168.49-169.82	
Australia... A\$1.4300-1.4325	
Brazil... Cruzeiro 5408.41-5408.20	
Cyprus... C\$0.7842-0.7893	
Finland... Markka 7.7071-7.7158	
Greece... Drachma 191.45-195.29	
Hong Kong... HK\$ 9.8040-9.8140	
India... Rupee 14.8324	
Israel... Sheqel 3.4830-3.4844	
Kenya... Kenya 2.7010-2.7020	
Malaysia... Ringgit 2.9430-2.9530	
Saudi Arabia... Rial 4.3875-4.4075	
Singapore... S\$ 2.8870-2.8970	
South Africa... Rand 3.4800-3.4810	
United Arab Emirates... Dirham 4.3825-4.3925	

Subject to audit.

DOLLAR RATES

22-11-84	Prev. close
France... 8.2200-8.2300	8.2175
Germany... 3.4800-3.4900	3.4800
Holland... 140.50-140.50	140.50
Italy... 140.50-140.50	140.50
Japan... 140.50-140.50	140.50
Portugal... 140.50-140.50	140.50
Spain... 140.50-140.50	140.50
Sweden... 140.50-140.50	140.50</

Remember, remember, the 28th of November.

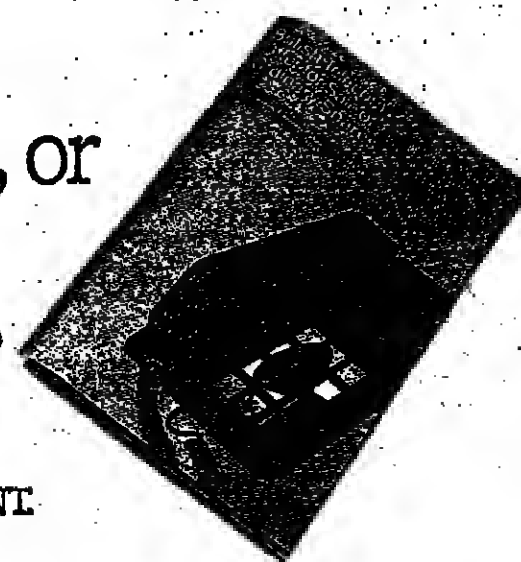


November 28th is the last day for receipt of applications to buy British Telecom shares.

A prospectus, containing an application form, will be published in this newspaper tomorrow.

Or you can get one from your bank, post office, or financial adviser.

Are you going to share in British Telecom's future?



Continued from Page 28

[illegible]

Making room for beginners

A measure of the demand for cheaper homes in London is the recent success reported by Ellis in their sale of 22 flats built inside the old St Simoon's Church at Maida Vale by City Centre. Almost all have been sold, and first-time buyers were prominent at the foot of the queue.

The conversion contains one-bedroom flats, priced from £31,500, and two-bedroom flats priced up to £52,500. Most of the 1898 architect-

A builder who specialises in the first-time buyer market is Bellway Homes (South East). Indeed last year

The company prides itself on providing greater space rather than fittings, the apartments measuring about 360 sq ft.

single person earning about \$1,500 a year could buy one, even if he did have to sit on orange boxes for a while.

**Closing date 5th December 1984.
All applicants will be considered on
the basis of suitability for the post,
regardless of sex, race, marital**

Principal

The two Colleges, with their common traditions and

Management Contracting Norwest Holst

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, IN MEMORIAM AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS £1.50 a line (minimum 2 lines)
Announcements authenticated by the name and address of the sender may be sent to THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, 135 Fleet Street, London EC4A 3DF, or by telephone (01-553 2000) or (01-553 3939).
Announcements can be received by telephone between 9.00 a.m. and 6.45 p.m. Monday to Friday, on Saturday between 9.00 a.m. and 12 noon, and on FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES, WEDDINGS, etc., on Court Page 58 & 59.
Court Page announcements cannot be accepted by telephone.

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UNESCO NOT GIVING VALUE SAYS HOWE

By JAMES MacMANUS Diplomatic Staff

THE Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, told Parliament yesterday that Britain had not been satisfied that its membership of the 161-nation Unesco body was giving value for money. By serving notice to quit at the end of 1985, the Government was retaining the option of using its contributions to better purpose.

He added that Britain would still make its contribution to the organisation's 1985 budget which, at £5.2 million, represents 4.6 per cent of income for next year.

In April, Mr. Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, made a formal complaint about Unesco's policies and raised the prospect of a British withdrawal unless there were substantial reforms.

The agency has been widely criticised for wasteful expenditure on ill-defined projects and for a Third World bias which has led to constant anti-Western rhetoric and a clumsy attempt to suppress the free flow of information from developing countries.

But E.E.C. countries and members of the Commonwealth have appealed to Britain to remain in Unesco and help reform the 38-year-old organisation from within.

Anger with chief However, Ministers take a dim view of the agency's internal reform and feel that the office to quit will act as greater pressure on the Senegalese Director-General, Mr. Amadou Mahtar Mbow, to curtail the financial and administrative excesses for which Unesco has become infamous.

The widespread criticisms of Mr. Mbow's management of the organisation are generally shared in Europe, but have infuriated the government more than the Reagan administration in Washington.

The United States has already given the required years notice and will leave Unesco at the end of the year depriving the agency of 25 per cent of its budget.

The American decision and strong pressure from a number of Western nations has produced a number of reforms within Unesco's sprawling Paris headquarters, including greater accountability for Mbow and his personal secretariat of 42.

But in the eyes of Washington and London the major

criticisms have not been answered.

Foremost is the charge that 76 per cent of Unesco's budget is spent on salaries, expenses and running costs at the agency's headquarters and that only part of the remainder actually goes to field projects such as literacy programmes.

The stridently anti-Western rhetoric of Unesco's frequent pronouncements on world matters, especially its partisan approach to the Middle Eastern problem, have proved an irritant in relations with Western nations, which supply around 65 per cent of the overall budget.

When Mr. Mbow took up his £100,000 a year tax-free post ten years ago, Unesco was known chiefly for its literacy programmes and the cultural salvation of the Nubian monuments from the Nile Valley and the Buddhist shrines in Sri Lanka.

Since then the agency is held to have lost sight of its simple goals amid a proliferation of ambitious programmes devised by a top-heavy bureaucracy.

OUR ARTS CORRESPONDENT writes: The British Council may have to withdraw its representation in some countries and possibly cut back on educational and cultural programmes because of the inadequacy of its Government grant for 1985-86.

It will not be able to open an office in Brussels, where other countries have recognised the importance of the institution to an oil-rich society.

The broad aim of the council, which was established in 1954, is to promote knowledge of Britain and the English language and to play a vital role in the cultural and trade promotion fields. In the council's 39 language centres alone there are some 52,000 students.

Left-wing Labour MPs involved in Wednesday's disturbances in the Commons said yesterday that they might be repeated if the Government followed its curbs on benefit for strikers' families with further "twists of the knife."

But at a meeting of the parliamentary Labour party they were challenged by Right-wing colleagues who argued that the demonstration had been untimely and had simply served to detract from a ministerial "own goal."

Mr. Roy Hattersley, deputy Labour leader, urged MPs called in Monday's emergency debate to emphasise the "meanings" of the decision.

Earlier Mr. Eric Heffer, MP for Liverpool Labour, forecast that such demonstrations might well be staged again in protest at government actions.

GCHQ ban

By MAURICE WEAVER
Continued from Page One

now waiting to see if the Government tries to transfer default union members to non-security establishments.

Mr. Jack Hart, the union "rebels" leader and chairman of the specially-formed GCHQ trade unions organisation, said compulsory transfers would be rigorously opposed.

Yesterday's Lords ruling was the culmination of a see-saw legal process which has sustained union hopes of victory till the last.

Mr. Peter Jones, secretary of the Council of Civil Service Unions, the body which co-ordinates the campaign, said lawyers will be instructed immediately to begin drafting the case for the European Commission.

But while the British Government is a signatory to the human rights convention, there is no legal requirement on it to abide by the Commission's rulings.

It is expected to argue that this responsibility to protect national security supersedes such pressures.

The number of GCHQ trade unionists who have retained union membership all along is reckoned to be about 150. They rejected the £1,000 compensation payment for the loss of trade-union rights.

A further 250 were said to have rejoined after the proposed ruling by Mr. Justice Goff in the High Court in July.

Although they had accepted the £1,000 payment the unions argue that there is no requirement on them to pay the money back because they have never been asked to do so.

Today members of the six Civil Service unions in Scotland will be urged at lunchtime meetings not to return to work in the afternoon as a show of support for Cheltenham.

Court ruling—P2

GAS RIG TO BE COMPLETED IN FRENCH YARD

Cammell Laird, shipbuilders of Birkenhead, Merseyside, said last night that a £20 million accommodation rig they are building for British Gas is to be completed in Brest, France, because their own dry dock is not big enough.

In June, members of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union seized the rig as a protest against plans to tow her to France.

That led to 15-week occupation of the rig and the Type 42 destroyer Edinburgh, which ended when 37 men were jailed for a month. Up to 100 Cammell Laird workers are to accompany the rig to France to help finish work on her support. The rig is 11 months behind schedule.

By JAMES WIGHTMAN

1,314ton Famine AIRLIFT BY RAF

By Our Defence Correspondent
The two RAF Hercules aircraft operating in support of the famine relief campaign to Ethiopia had by yesterday carried 1,314 tons of supplies.

They have carried 1,000 tons of grain and flour, 80 tons of medical stores, vehicle spares etc, 20 tons of blankets and 14 tons of biscuits.

There is co-ordination of the R.A.F. having to move to base their operations from Addis Ababa to Djibouti as had been suggested earlier.

£1,910m MOTOR TRADE DEFICIT

The motor industry had a balance of trade deficit of £1,910 million up to September so improvement of 100 million in the same period last year. Imports of vehicles and spare parts cost £5,140 million. Exports were worth £3,230 million.

City Report—P25

BRITON HELD

Norwegian police have arrested six Irish citizens and one Briton after finding 92lb of marijuana in a car. —Reuter.

Commons Sketch

PASSION RULES

THE ROOST

By GODFREY BARKER

"THE House adjourned in grave disorder."

HANSARD, Wednesday: It resumed yesterday with honour still unavenged on both sides.

It fell to Mr. Roy Hattersley, his Leader being in Moscow, to apologise on behalf of Labour for the ugly excesses of the night before—when Left-wing MPs massed before the Mace like a silent gang of street youths hunting for trouble.

The Prime Minister prompted him with the words: "The rowdiest scenes this House has ever seen, orchestrated by Labour MPs."

She agreed with Mr. Michael Stewart, a Tory backbencher, that apologising would be "a nice way of ending this very ugly incident."

The apology to Mr. Speaker and the House was thus a task requiring grace, tact and judgment.

Loud Tory barks It was therefore quite beyond Mr. Hattersley. Provoked to fury by loud Tory barks of "apologise," he did not even try.

Labour's Deputy Leader appeared to be gripped with delirium tremens—understandably, since the Left majority of his party was outraged at his lack of support.

His own men were embarrassed and the Tories were derisive and angry.

Shaking visibly, he opted, like Marshal Foch with his flanks under fire, to attack as the best form of defence.

He hurled at Mrs. Thatcher our vindictive act," he hurled at Mrs. Thatcher our vindictive act."

No one was sure if he meant the increased deduction for strikers, the written answer means of announcing it or Mr. Fowler's bullish confidence on Wednesday night. Perhaps all three.

Job violence

"Such callousness confirms our long-held view that the less concerned with the suffering of the miners' strike than with cheap political victory," he near-spoke at the P.M.

Mrs. Thatcher, noisily, turned the callousness back on Mr. Scargill for his refusal to give up his strike.

By the end of Prime Minister's Questions, all hope of the House taking a dispassionate view of what was, after all, a threat to democracy was hopelessly dissipated.

Postscript to the roost. Mr. Craxie Orskov, new chairman of the 1922 Committee, raved about "a disgraceful exhibition by Mr. Scargill's friends."

Mr. Eldon Griffiths, hinted that the police should have been summoned by the Sergeant.

Only another outstanding display of quiet authority by Mr. Speaker Weatherill rescued any dignity for the day.

'Disorderly conduct'

"For centuries this House has seen the strongest expression of opinion and policy. Over the centuries this House has jealously guarded its procedures of free debate."

"It reminds the House that if its proceedings are halted by disorderly conduct, and this does include refusal to hear the opinion of others, this long tradition is damaged and violated, and the authority of Parliament is undermined," he announced briefly.

"I say to the House that as long as I am Speaker, I shall continue to uphold its reputation and supremacy."

Soon after, the House's reputation was under attack again. Mr. Speaker, with deep reluctance, called Mr. "Dave" Nellist.

It was the Militant Tendency MP for Coventry SE who seized Mr. Fowler's statement from the Dispatch Box on Wednesday and read it out.

"We stand our ground" at the Speaker. Would he apologise? Some hope.

Yelled at Biffen

Nellist was his normal soap-box self. He yelled at Mr. Biffen, Leader of the House, that the £1 theft from striking miners was caused by Government desperation and the fear of power cuts "to several weeks' time."

Mr. Biffen was cold and angry and crushed ice. What Mr. Nellist indulged in the night before was a display of parliamentary procedure which was offensive to the House.

It was a sad day. Sadder, there will be more of the same when the House debates the issue in Opposition time next Monday.

Parliament—P15

AIRPORT DELAY IN FALKLANDS

By Our Political Staff
The target date of next April for completion of the main runway at the new Falklands airport may well not be met.

Sir Gordon Downey, Controller and Auditor-General, warned MPs yesterday.

The reason was the scale and complexity of the task. He said every week's delay in getting the airport operational would cost the taxpayer £500,000 in troop transit and accommodation costs.

Sikh moved

By Our Staff Correspondent
Constable Sarwant Singh, 21, the Sikh assassin of Mrs. Gandhi, has been secretly moved from New Delhi because of fears that Sikh extremists may try to kill him to stop him talking.

Look at Lovell

FOR TOTAL BUILDING SERVICE

DEATHS (Continued)

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